

THE FIRST PART
OF THE
Pleasant and Princely
HISTORY
OF THE
GENTLE-CRAFT.

A DISCOURSE
Containing many matters of Delight:
Very Pleasant to Read.

SHEWING
What Famous Men have been *SHOO-MAKERS* in time
past in this Land, with their Worthy Deeds, and great Hospitality.

Set forth with Pictures, and Variety of Wit and Mirth.

Declaring the cause why it is called the
GENTLE-CRAFT:

And also how the PROVERB first grew:

A SHOO-MAKERS Son is a Prince Born. T. D.

With gentleness judge you,
At nothing here grudge you.
The merry Shoo-makers delight in good sport:
What here is presented,
Be therewith contented,
And as you do like it, so give your Report.

Hand curo invidiam.

L O N D O N,

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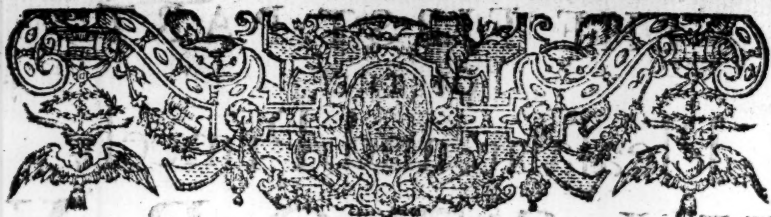


Honour and many Victories, do Crown,
 The Name of *Crispianus* with Renown:
 Whilst *Crispine* a new Conqueror doth prove,
 And wins at home a Royal LADIES Love.

The History of the
GENTLE-CRAFT



A *Gentle Craft* that hath the Art,
To steal soon into a LADIES Heart;
Here you may see, what Youth and Love can do,
The Crown doth stoop to th' Maker of a Shooe.



To all the good

YE OMEN



Gentle-Craft.

YOU that the Gentle Craft profess,
Lift to my Words both more and less,
And I shall tell you many things
Of worthy and renowned Kings:
And divers Lords and Knights also,
That were Shoemakers long ago:
Some of them in their distress,
Delighted in this Business:
And some for whom great wait was laid,
Did save their lives by this same Trade:
Other some, in Sport and game,
Delighted much to learn the same:
No other Trade in all the Land,
They thought so fit unto their hand;
For evermore they still did find,
That Shoemakers bore a gallant mind:
Men they were of high conceit,
The which wrought many a merry feat:
Stout of Courage were they still,
And in their Weapons had great skill:
Travellers by Sea and Land,
Each Countryguise to understand.

Wrong they wrought not any man,
With reason all things did they scan;
Good houses kept they evermore,
Relieving both the Sick and Poor.
In Law no money would they spend,
Their quarrels friendly would they end.
No malice did they bear to any,
But shew'd great favor unto many.
Offences they would soon forgive,
They would not in contention live,
Thus in joy they spent their days,
With pleasant Songs and Roundelais;
And God did bless them with content,
Sufficient for them he sent;
And never yet did any know,
A Shoemaker a begging go:
Kind are they one to another,
Using each stranger as his Brother.
Thus lived Shoemakers of Old,
As antient Writers have it told;
And thus Shoemakers still would be,
So Fame from them shall never flee.

The



The Old SHOO-MAKERS Advice to his Son, Being the Downfal of ALEWIVES.

Young Man, that now art in thy prime, beware of Drunkenness,
Thy Father hath mispent his time in that same fowl Excess:
Which made me for to write to thee, the Ale-house to refrain,
Because it hath quite ruin'd me, spending my time in vain.

A Wall-nut is a pleasant Fruit, and hath a bitter Skin,
If with the Ale-wife thou dispute, she'll make thy purse but thin:
Thy money must maintain her Pride, and by her Cobweb-Lawn,
Whilst thou for Bear and Ale beside, dost lay thy Cloak to pawn.

Good Council she will seem to give, but if thou stay away,
This woman knows not how to live, her Trade will soon decay:
Thou work'st for her both Day and Night, and all to pay thy score:
She loves to see thee in her sight, and all to keep thee poor.

She'll make a very Rogue of thee if thou by her be rul'd,
Hadst thou not better to go free, than be by her thus fool'd:
When thou goest home to wig to wag, praising thy own good carriage,
Thy cloaths no better than a Rag, O this will spoyl thy Marriage.

She evermore will thee perswade never to take a Wife,
For why she thinks 'twill spoyl her Trade, and be the cause of strife:
If thou be ne'r so much in haste, shee'll cause thee for to stay,
The Cubbard then must be uncas'd, tush, what will you away?

She'll bring a piece of powder'd beef, or a Virginy Trout,
O shee's a very loving thief, shee'll find thy money out.
Her Lettice shews as thou maist see, she sells both Ale and Beer,
But O-beware, be rul'd by me, buy not her ware too dear.

For she will hold some folks in talk, both Jeffery, James and John,
Then with a double forked chalk, shee'll score two pots for one:
Ple tell you of a story good, ye Drunkards men your lives:
If it be rightly understood, you you'l never love ale-Wives.

Two Drunkards lov'd each other well, and both liv'd in one house,
The thing is true which I will tell, the best not worth a louse:
One of them dy'd, and left his Cloak and Sute unto the other:
They spent their coyn in drink and smoak, and ruin'd each other,

The Old Shoo-makers advice to his Son.

But mark the Ale-wives cruelty, she claim'd all for her own;
Because the man that then did dye, was in her debt, 'twas known.
Then have a care my honest Lad, if thou dye ne'r so poor,
If any thing be to be had, 'tis that must pay thy score.

O then live but a civil life, and scrape this Dragon fell,
Thou may'st prevent much drunken strife, and then thou shalt do well.
Crispine and **Crispianus** stout, were proper men and tall:
But if thou beat this Dragon out, thou dost more than them all.

For he that can himself subdue, and bridle his own will,
O he doth more than if he slew, and did ten Dragons kill.
Gentlemen of the Gentle-Craft, I wish so well to all,
Although you drink your mornings draught, let none procure your fall:

To all Courteous Readers, Health.

HOW *St. Hugh* was Son unto the Renowned King of Powis, a Noble Brittain born,
who in the prime of his Years, loved the fair Virgin Winifred: who was the only
Daughter of Donwallo: which was the last King that Reigned in Tegara, which is now
called Flintshire: But she refusing all offers of Love, was only pleased with a Religious
life. Her Father was sent to Rome, and dyed, whose Lady left her lifelong before. This
Virgin therefore, forsook her Fathers Princely Pallace in Pant Varre, and made her whole
abiding in the most sweet and pleasant Valley of Sichenaut, and lived there seiscarily,
and careless of all company or comfort: It chanced that in Summers heat, this fair Virgin
being distressed for want of drink, and not knowing where to get any, there sprang up sud-
denly a Crystall stream of most pleasant water out of the hard ground, whereof this Virgin
did daily drink; unto the which God himself gave so great a vertue, that many people hav-
ing been washed therein, were healed of divers and sandy infirmities, wherewith they
were born. Moreover, round about this Well where this Virgin did use to walk, did
grow a kind of Moss, which is of a most sweet savour, and the colour thereof is as fresh in
Winter as in Summer, so that lying thereon you would suppose your self to be on a bed of
Down, perfumed with most precious Odours. And what of all this? Marry, read this
Book and you shall know: but read nothing except you read all. And why so? Because
the beginning shews not the middle, and the middle shews not the latter end.

And so Farewel.

The



The Pleasant History of Sir *Hugh*, and first of all his constant Love to the fair Virgin *Winifred*..



Conquering and most imperious Love, having seized on the heart of young Sir Hugh; all his wits were set on work, how to compass the Love of the fair Virgin Winifred, whose obtaining was the chief cause of his care, having received many infinite sorrows for her sake. But as a stream of water being stoppt, over-floweth the bank; so smothered desire doth burst out into a great flame of fire, which made the pale-contented Lover to seek some means to appease the strife of his contentious thoughts. Whereupon he began to encourage himself; Thus Hugh, let not a few froward words of a Woman dismay thee, for thy love to be intreated, and delight to be wooed, though they would make the most belibere otherwisse, for their denials proceed more of niceness than niggardiness, refusing that they would fainest have. What if sometimes Winifred frown on thee, yet her frown may exceed her frowardness. The Sun is sometimes overcast with Clouds, so that her brightness is not seen: In wars, the longer the fight is, the greater is the glory of the victory; and the harder a woman is to be won, the sweeter is her love when it is obtained: Wherefore I'll once again try my fortune, and see what success my suit shall find: On this resolution Sir Hugh returned to Winifred, greeting her thus:

Now fair Lady, having slept away the Remembrance of your sharp answers, I come again in a new conceit to renew an old suit, and to see if the change of the day will yield a change of dolours. Truly Sir Hugh (qd. she) If with the change of the day you have changed your opinion, your dolour will be gotten away well enough: but as touching your suit, it shall be needless to repeat it, because I am not willing to press it. Stay there (qd. Sir Hugh) I will prefer it; so that you will accept it. Now qd. she, I will accept it, if you will prefer it, in sending it back to the place from whence it did proceed; and I would to God, I could send you away as soon as your suit. Why then be like I am not welcome, said Sir Hugh: Yes, qd. she, as welcome to me as a man to

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to a distressed Marriage: I muse greatly that reason will not rule you, nor induce you from your willfulness; if you were as weary to woo, as I am weary to hear you, I am persuaded that long since you would have ceased your vain suit: You think by these persuasions to turn my opinion; but as well you may think that you may quench fire with oil; therefore I pray you good Sir Hugh, be not so tedious to me, nor troublesome to your self.

Come, come, quoth he, all this will not serve your turn: ponder with thy self Winifred, that thou art fair, O that thou wert as favourable: thy beauty hath bound me to be thy servant, and never cease till I see another obtain thee, or my self be possessed of my hearts content: Thou art a Kings daughter, and I a Princes Son; stain not the glory of true Nobility with the foul sin of obstinacy, but be thou as kind as thou art courtly, and gentle as thou art noble, and then shall our strife soon end.

Winifred perceiving that the farther off she was to grant love, the more eager he was to desire it, thrust him off thus: Sir, although your over-busyness drive me into the greatest doubtfulness, yet let me intreat you, if you love me, to give me one months respite to consider on this matter, and it may be, that upon my better deliberation, it shall be pleasing unto you, and not at all discontenting me.

Fair love, quoth he, far be it from my heart to deny so kind a request, I am content to stay a month from thy sight, were it two or three, upon condition that thou wouldst then grant me thy good will; three months, although it be very long, yet it will come at last, and I could be content for that time to be dead for thy sake, inasmuch, that my life might be renewed by thy love.

Day (qu. Winifred) stay three months and stay for ever: By this a Poet may see how ready men are upon a light occasion to take long days, whose loves are like a Fern-bush, soon set on fire, and soon consumed; and seeing it is so, in faith Sir Hugh, I do mean to try you before I trust you.

Pardon me fair Winifred, said Sir Hugh, if my tongue doth out-step my wit, in truth I spake but to please thee, though to displease my self: but I pray thee, let it not be three hours, nor three quarters of an hour, if thou wilt.

Stay, say (quoth he) your first words shall stand; after three months come to me again, and then you shall know my mind to the full, and so good Sir Hugh be gone: but if I do ever hear from thee, or see thee betwixt this time and the time promised, I will for ever hereafter blot out thy name out of my book of remembrance, and never piete thee that courtesie, which thou at this time so earnestly intrestest for.

Sir Hugh upon these words departed betwixt hope and dread, much like a man committing a trespass; that stays for the sentence of Life and Death.

O unhappy man, quoth he, how hath my over-slippery tongue lengthened the time of my sorrow? she of her self most courteously requested of me but one months stay, and I most willingly and undifferently added thereto eight weeks more of misery. Much like a Hand, that having a knife given him to pare his Nails, did therewith murder himself. Now I could wish that the Sun had Eagles wings, swiftly to fly through the fair Firmament, and finish six days in one days time. With that he began to count the days and hours that were in three months, falling (in a manner) to a despair with himself when he found them so many in number; and therewithal melancholly and sadly, he went to his Fathers House, where his Brother Griffith found by his countenance the perfect map of a penitent Lover: whereupon he said unto him:

Why, how now Brother? hath fair Winifreds beauty so greatly wounded you, as you cannot speak a merry word to your friend; but sit in a corner as if you were tongue-tied like a Rat? Just brother, women are like shadows, for the more a man follows them,

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them, the faster they run away: but let a man turn his course, and then they will presently follow him. What man, pluck up a good heart, for there are more women now than lived in the time of old Father Adam.

W. said Hugh, were there ten thousand times more than there are now, what were that to me. If Winifred be unkind: yet is she the Oil that still maintains the lamp of my light, and without her there is nothing comfortable to me. Light.

Then (replied Griffith) you are as much troubled in love, as a Goat in an Ague, and as blind as a flye in October, that will stand still while a man cuts off his head. Come, go a hunting with me, that will drive away your over-sond conceits, and you shall see that these three months will come upon you, as a quarter-day upon a poor man, that hath never a penny ready towards the payment of his Rent.

CHAP. II.

How beautiful Winifred, being over much superstitious, forsook her Father's wealth, and lived poorly by a springing fountain, from whence no man could get her to go; which Spring to this day is called Winifreds well.



Winifred, who had but of late years, with her own father, received the Christian Faith, because so superstitious, that she thought the health of the world for ever would have been an heavy burthen for her son, and had oraten her mind from the love of her Master; wherefore, forsaking all manner of earthly pomp, she lived a long time very poorly, hard by the side of a most pleasant springing well: from which place neither her friends by intreaty, nor her foes by violence could bring her: which Sir Hugh hearing, he went thither immediately after unto her, which was the time limited by them both, and finding her mind altogether altered, he wondered not a little what she meant. And when he approached near unto the place where she sat, sat in simple attire, he saluted her with these words.

All health to fair Winifred: I trust my dear, that now the Destinies have yielded a convenient opportunity for me to finish my long begun suit, with the end of my former sorrows: Long and tedious hath the winter of my woes been, which with nipping care hath blasted the beauty of my youthful delight, which is like never again to flourish, except the bright Sun-shine of thy favour do renew the same: therefore fair love remember thy promise made unto me, and put me no more off with pleasing delays.

She (which all this while sat solemnly reading in her Book) lent little ear unto his

wood, which he perceiving, pluckt her by the arm, saying: Wherefore answereth not my fair Love, to her dearest perplexed friend?

What would you have (quoth she) can I never be at quiet for you? Is there no corner of content in this world to be found?

Yes *Unluffed* (said he) content dwells here, or no where: content me, and I will content thee, if my content may be thy content: Then read this book, and there rest content, said *Unluffed*: and if thou refusest this, then think not to find content on earth.

Sir Hugh replied: What is this all the reward I shall have, for obeying your heart-cutting commands? have I thus long hoped, and find no better hap? You wot well that it is now three long months since these eyes took comfort of thy beauty, and since that time my bleeding heart hath received joy in thy gentleness.

I have forgotten you quite, said she; What three months is that you speak of? for my part I assure you, that it is as far out of my mind, as you are from the Mount of Calvary.

Fair *Unluffed* (said he) have you forgotten me and therewithal my love, which I so effectually grounded upon your good liking? You told me that now I should receive an answer to my content.

O Sir (quoth she) you have stayed over-long, and your words are in my hearing as unprofitable as snow in Harvest, my love is fled to Heaven, from whence no earthly man can fetch it, and therefore build not on vain hope, nor do thou deceive thy self by following any unprofitable suit; if ever I love earthly man it shall be thee, inasmuch as thou hast deserved an earthly Ladies love: but my love is settled for ever, both in this world, and in the world to come, and thus I most earnestly intreat thee to take for a final answer.

With that *Sir Hugh* turning his head aside, wept most bitterly, and in going away he glanced his eye back again after his Love, saying to himself: O unconstant Women, wavering and uncertain, how many sorrows are fond men drawn unto by your wily enticements: I who am also swallowed up in the gaping gulph of care, while they listen after the heart-licking sound of your enchanting voices. O *Unluffed*, full little did I think that so hard a heart could have been shrouded under so sweet and loving a countenance; But seeing that my good will is thus unkindly requited, I will altogether abhor the sight of Women, and I will seek the world throughout, but I will find some blessed plot, where no such kind of corrupt castle breed.

Whereupon all in a hot and hasty humour, he made preparation for to go beyond the seas, sitting himself after the nature of a melancholy man, and arriving in France, he took his journey towards Paris, which City (at that time) was well replenished with many goodly fair women, as well as Britain, though to his thinking nothing so lovely; but nevertheless what they wanted in beauty, they had in variety: which when *Sir Hugh* saw, he suddenly departed from that place, counting it the most pernicious place in the whole Countrey: and from thence he went into Italy, where he found such stately Dames and lovely Ladies, whom nature had adorned with all perfection of outward beauty; whose sight put him again in remembrance of his fair Love, which like fresh fuel newly augmented the flames of his burning desire: Oh! (said he) how unhappy am I to be haunted by these heart-tormenting fiends, bewitching the eyes of simple men with Angel-like faces, and like enchanting Circes, bringing them to a Labyrinth of continual Woes.

O *Unluffed*, thy peevishness hath bred my dangers, and done thy self no good at all, Thou sitest weeping by a Crystal stream, where is no need of water, while I wander up and down, seeking to forget thee; thou never remembrest me, having drawn the

Fountain of mine eyes dry, through thy discourteous disdain. Might I never see any of thy Sex, my heart would be more at quiet; but every place where I come puts me in mind of thy perfections, and therewithal renews my pain: but I will from hence as soon as possible I can, though not so soon as I would, for fear lest these sweet Serpents should sting me to death with delight.

Hereupon he passed on so far, that at length he came to a City situated in the sea, and compassed with the wild Ocean. Here (quoth Sir Hugh) is a fit place for melancholy men, where it is supposed that no women do live, inasmuch that their delicate bodies cannot endure the salt savour of the mounting waves: If it be so, there will I make my residence, counting it the most blessed place under heaven: but he was no sooner set on the land, but he beheld whole troops of lovely Ladies, passing up and down in most sumptuous attire, framing their gestures answerable to their beauties and comely personages.

Nay, now I see (quoth Sir Hugh) that the whole world is infected with these deceiving Syrens, and therefore in vain it is for me to seek for that I shall never find; and there withal sought for some house wherein he might hide himself from them. But by that time he was set at supper, comes a crew of Court-like Dames richly attired, and with wanton eyes and pleasing speech, they boldly sat down by him; and perceiving him to be a stranger, they were not strange to allure him to their delight: wherefore while he sat at meat, they pleased him such mirth as their best skill could afford, and stretched their nimble fingers, playing on their sweet sounding instruments. they sang this ensuing Song, with such clear and quavering voices, as had been sufficient to allure the chaste hearted Xenocrates unto folly: and still as they did sing Sir Hugh answered in the last line: inasmuch as it seemed to be a Dialogue betwixt them: And in this manner following the women began their Song.

The Curtizens Song of Venice.

Ladies **W**elcome to Venice, gentle courteous Knight,
cast off all care, and entertain content,

If any here be gracious in thy sight,

do but request and she shall soon consent;

Love's wings are swift, then be not thou so slow.

Hugh. Oh! that fair Winifred would once say so.

Ladies. Within my lap lay down thy comely head,

and let me stroke those golden locks of thine,

Look on the tears that for thy sake I shed;

and be thou Lord of any thing is mine;

One gentle look upon thy Love bestow,

Hugh. Oh! that fair Winifred would once say so.

Ladies. Embrace with joy thy Lady in thine arms,

and with all pleasures past to thy delight;

If thou dost think the light will work our harms,

come, come to bed, and welcome all the night;

There shalt thou find what Lovers ought to know.

Hugh. Oh! that fair Winifred would once say so.

Ladies. Give me those Pearls as pledges of thy Love,

and with those Pearls the favour of thy Heart;

Do not from me thy sugred breath remove,

That

That double comfort gives to every part :
 Nay Ray Sir Knight, from hence thou shalt not go;
 Hugh. Oh! that fair Winifred would once say so,

When Sir Hugh had heard this Song, and therewithal noted their wanton gestures, he began to grow suspicious of their proffers, and thinking to himself, that either they thought his distraction, as the Syrens did to Ulysses; or that they intended to make a prey of his purse, as Laïs did of her Lovers: and therefore supposing some Adverser to be lurking under the fair flowers of their proffered pleasures, he determined the next morning after (with speed) to depart from the City. So when he had with good discretion avoided their company, while he lay tormented with restless thoughts on his still tossed bed, began thus to meditate.

Now well I see mine own vanity, that is as ill pleased with womens favour as their frowns: how often have I with heart sighing sorrow, complained of womens unkindness, making large invectives against their discourtesies? and yet here where I find women as kind as they are fair, and courteous as they are comely, I run into a world of doubts, and am so suspicious of their fair proffers, as I was earnest to win Winifreds favour. It may be (quoth he) that it is the nature of this gentle soyl to breed as kind creatures, as the Country of Brittain breeds coy Dames. Undoubtedly, had my Love first taken life in this kind and courteous Climate, she would have been as kind as they, if I misjudge not of their gentleness; because I have always been turned to scornfulness, methinks they are too fair to be Harlots, and too bold to be honest: but as they have no cause to hate me that never hurt them, so have they little cause to love me, being a far stranger born; to them a man altogether unknown, but it may be that this time of the year is only unfortunate for Lovers; as it is certainly known unto all men, that every season of the year breeds a sundry commodity, for Roses flourish in June, and Gilliflowers in August, neither of them both doth so in the cold winter. Such as seek for fruit on sapless trees, in the Month of January, lose their labour as well as their longing: then why should I covet to gather Fruits of love, when I see that love is not yet ripe? Now let me observe the season that yields the sweetest comfort to love-sick persons, and so I may reap the joyful Fruits of hearts content; I will, therefore return to my former love, hoping now to find her as friendly, as at my departure she was froward: I will once again intreat her, and speak her exceeding fair: for with many drops the hardest Stone is pierced; To also with many importunate entreaties, a flinty heart may be moved to some remorse. I take no pleasure at all in any place, but only in her presence, with the which she continually graceth a running stream: far be it from her mind to kiss her own shadow in the Crystal Spring, and to be in love with her own similitude, for so she might be spoiled as Narcissus was; for it is commonly seen that sudden dangers follow fond opinions.

So with these, and the like thoughts he rode out the night, till the Suns bright eye began to peep in at his Chamber window, at which time, dressing himself, he went to the water side, where he found a Ship ready to transport rich Merchandise to the Western Islands, in the which Sir Hugh became a Passenger. But when they were put off to Sea, there arose so sudden a Storm, and of a long continuance, that no man looked for life, but expected every moment present death. So that the Mariners quite forsook the Mackle, and the Master the Helm, committing themselves to God, and their Ship to the mercy of the swelling Seas, by whose furious waves they were sometimes tossed up towards heaven, anon thrown down to the deep of hell: in which extremity Sir Hugh made this lamentation.

Unhappy man, how eagerly dost mischance pursue me at my heels; for betwixt my Love on the Land, and danger of life on the Sea, it hath made me the wretchedest man breathing on earth.

Here we may see that miseries have power over men, and not men over miseries: Now must I dye far from my friends, and be drenched in the deep, where my body must feed the fishes that swim in the rich bottom of the Sea: therefore fair *Winifred*, the chief ground of my griefs, here will I Sacrifice my last tears unto thee, and pour forth my complaints.

O how happy should I count my self, if those fishes which shall live on my bodies food, might be meat for my love! It grieveth me much to think that my poor bleeding heart, wherein thy picture is engraven, should be rent in pieces in such grievous sort: but thrice accursed be that fish that first seereth his nimble teeth thereon, except he swim therewith unto my Love, and so deliver it as a present token from me.

Had my troubled Stars allotted me to leave my life in the pleasant valley of *Sicquaint*, then no doubt but my Love with her fair hands would have closed up my dying eyes, and perhaps would have rung a peal of sorrowful sighs for my sake.

By this time was the weather-beaten Bark driven by the shoze of Sicillie, where the men had safety of their lives, although with loss of their Ship, & spoil of their goods, but they had no sooner shaken off their dropping wet garments on the shoze, but that they were assaulted by a sort of monstrous men, that had but one eye apiece, and that placed in the midst of their fore-heads: with whom the tempest-beaten woodlanders had a fierce fight, in which many of them were slain, and others of them fled away, to save themselves: so that in the end Sir, *Hugh* was left alone to fortune in a double trap: and having at last quite overcome all his adversaries, he went his way, and was so far entered into a dark wilderness, that he could not devise with himself which way he should take to get out, where he was so cruelly affrighted with the dreadful cry of fierce Lyons and Bears, and wild Bulls, and so many thousands more of other dangerous and cruel ravenous Beasts, which with greedy mouths ranged about for their prey, in which distress Sir *Hugh* got him up into tree, and being there brake out into these passions.

O Lord (quoth he) hast thou preserved me from the great peril and danger of the Sea, and delivered me out of the hand of cruel monstrous men, and now sufferest thou me to be devoured of wild Beasts? Alas, that my foul sins should bring so many sundry sorrows on my head; but for all this may I thank unkind *Winifred*, whose disdain hath wrought my destruction. Wo worth the time that ever I beheld her bewitching beauty. But hereby we may see that the path is clear that leadeth to danger. But why blame I the blameless Lady? Alas, full little did she know of my desperate courses in travel; but such is the fury that haunts frantic Lovers, that never fear danger until it fall and light upon their own heads.

But by that time the day began to appear, he perceived a huge Elephant with six joints walking towards him, and presently after came a fiery-tongued Dragon, which suddenly assaulted this peaceful Elephant, in whole subtle encounter, the wrathful Dragon with his long writhling tail, do so wacke the hinder feet of the Elephant together, that like a Prisoner that is fettered in front, he could not stir a foot for his life: at which time the furious Dragon never left till he had thrust his slender head into the Elephants long hooked nose, but of which he never drew it, until by sucking the Elephants blood, he had made him so feeble and so weak, that he could stand no longer upon his feet: at which time, the fainting Elephant with a grievous cry, fell down dead upon the Dragon; so with the fall of his weighty body burst the Dragon.

Dragon in pieces, and so killed him; whereby their bloods being mixed together, it stained all the ground where they both lay, changing the green grass into a rich scarlet colour. This strange sight betwixt these two Beasts, caused good Sir Hugh to judge that nature had planted betwixt them a deadly hatred, the fire whereof could not be quenched, but by shedding of both their hearts blood. Now when Sir Hugh saw that grim death had ended their quarrel, and perceiving no danger near, he came down from the tree, and sought to find out some inhabited town: but being intangled in the Woods, like the Centaur in his Labyrinth, he could by no means get out, but wandered in unknown passages, leading him to many perils.

At last another Elephant met him, who according to his kind nature never left him till he had conducted him out of all danger, and brought him out of the Wilderness into the way again, whereby Sir Hugh at the length came in sight of a Port Town, where in four days after he imbarqued himself in a Ship bound for Britain, and at last obtained the sight of his native Countrey, where he arrived in safety, though in a very poor sort, coming on shore at a place called Harwich, where for want of money he greatly lamented, and made much moan. But meeting with a merry Journey-man Shoemaker, dwelling in that Town, and after some conference had together, they both agreed to travel in the Countrey, where we will leave them, and speak of Winifred, and of her great troubles and calamities.

CHAP. III.

How fair Winifred was imprisoned and condemned to dye for her Religion; and how Sir Hugh became a Shoemaker, and afterwards came to suffer death with his Love; shewing also how the Shoemakers tools came to be called St. Hugh's Bones; and the trade of Shoemaking the Gentle Craft.



After the Doctrine of Christ was made known in Britain, that the worship of Heathen Idols was forbidden, yet many troubles did the Christians endure by the outrageous blood-thirstiness of others, who by the way of invasion set footing in this Land, as it fell out in the days of Dioclesian, that with bloody minds persecuted such as would not yield to the Pagan Law, among which the Virgin Winifred was one, who for that she continued constant in the faith, was long imprisoned. During which time, Sir Hugh wrought in a Shoemakers-Hop, having learned that trade through the courteous directions of a kind Journey-man, where he remain'd the space of one whole year, in which time he had gotten himself good apparel,

paral, and every thing comely and decent. Notwithstanding, though he were now contented to forget his birth, yet could not he forget the beauty of his Love, who although he had utterly forsaken her, yet could he not alter his affections from her, because indeed affections alter not, like a pale-faced Colmar. The wildest Bull (if only he) is tamed, being tyed to a fig-tree, and the coyest Dame (in time) may yield, like Wax. Though Roses have prickles, yet they are gathered; and though Women seem froward, yet they will shew themselves kind and friendly. Neither is there any War so hard, but by often tempering, is made apt to receive an impression. Admit she hath heretofore been cruel, yet now may she be courteous. A true-hearted Lover forgets all trespasses, and a smile cureth the wound of a frown. Thus after the manner of fond Lovers, he flattered himself in his own folly, and in the praise of his fair Lady, he sang this pleasant Ditty here following.

THe Pride of Brittain is my hearts delight,
My Lady lives, my true love to requite;
And in her life I live, that else were dead,
Like withered leaves in time of Winter shed.

She is the joy and comfort of my mind,
She is the Sun that clearest sight doth blind,
The fairest Flower that in the world doth grow,
Whose whiteness doth surpass the driven Snow.

Her gentle words more sweet than Honey are,
Her eyes for clearness dim the brightest Star:
Oh! were her heart so kind as she is fair,
No Lady might with my true love compare.

A thousand griefs for her I have sustained,
While her proud thoughts my humble suit disdained,
And tho she would my heart with torments kill,
Yet would I honour, serve, and love her still.

Blest be the place where she doth like to live,
Blest be the light that doth her comfort give;
And blessed be all creatures far and near,
That yield Relief unto my Lady dear.

Never may sorrow enter where she is,
Never may she contented comfort miss,
Never may she my proffered Love forsake:
But my good will in thankful sort to take.

Thus feeding his fancy with the sweet remembrance of her beauty, being never satisfied with thinking and speaking to her praise, at length he resolved himself to go into Flint-shire, where he might sollicite his lust anew again; but coming near to the place of her residence, and hearing report of her troubles, he so highly commended her faith and constancy that at length he was clapt up in Prison by her; and in

the end he was condemned to be hanged upon a gallows for a trayal of his honesty:
 But during the time that the Gentle-Craft was in the Gallies, the Gentle-men who made
 up his company, did observe that he was so industrious, that he wanted nothing
 that was necessary for him. In respect of which, he was called the Gentle-
 man of the Gentle-Craft: and a few days before his death, he made this Song in
 these two commendations.

OF Craft and Crafts-men more or less, the Gentle-Craft I must commend,
 Whose deeds declare their faithfulness, and hearty Love unto their Friends:
 The Gentle-Craft in midst of strife
 Yields comfort to a careless Life.

A Prince by birth I am indeed, the which for Love I seek this Land,
 And when I was in extream need, I took the Gentle-Craft in hand:
 And by the Gentle-Craft alone
 Long time I liv'd being still unknown.

Spending my days in sweet content, with many a pleasant sugred Song,
 Sitting with pleasures complement, while we recorded lovers wrong:
 And while the Gentle-Craft we us'd,
 True love by us was not abus'd.

Our Shoes we sowed with merry notes, and by our mirth expel'd all moan;
 Like Nightingals, from whose sweet throats, most pleasant Tunes are nightly blown,
 The Gentle-Craft is fitch then,
 For poor distressed Gentlemen.

Their minds do mount in courtesie, and they disdain a niggards Feast,
 Their Bodies are for Chivalry, all Cowardise they do detest:
 For Sword and Shield, for Bow and Shaft,
 No man can stain the Gentle-Craft.

Yea, sundry Princes sore distressed, shall seek for succour by this Trade,
 Whereby their griefs shall be redrest, of Foes they shall not be afraid:
 And many men of Fame likewise,
 Shall from this Gentle-Craft arise.

If we want Money over-night, ere next day noon God will it send,
 Thus we may keep our selves upright, and be no Churls unto our Friend:
 Thus do we live where pleasure springs,
 In our conceit like petty Kings.

Our hearts with care, we may not kill: mans life surpasseth worldly Wealth,
 Content is better than riches, and he on knaves that live by dealing
 This Trade there's none both great and small
 The Gentle-Craft shall ever call
 When the Gentle-men who make up his company, have heard this Song, and the fact that
 Sir Hugh has given them: They imagined the same to be true in their minds,
 there

dead, at what time a pale colour over spread her fair face in such comely sort as if a heap of Roses had been shadowed with a sheet of pure Linnen.

But it is to be remembred, that all the while the young Princess bleed, her blood was receiv'd into certain basons, which being in that sort saved together, the Tyrant caused it to be tempered with poyson, and prepared it to be the last drink that Sir Hugh should have: saying, that by her love whom he so dearly loved, he should receive his death. And thereupon instantlly, without any farther delay of time, he caused a cup of the most deadly poysoned blood to be delivered into his hands, who with a lovely and chearful countenance receiv'd the same, and then utter'd his mind in this manner.

O thou cruel Tyrant (quoth he) what a poor spight is this to infect upon a dying Man, that is as careless how he dies, as when he dies: Ease it is for thee to glat me with blood, although with blood thou art not satisfied. Sweet blood (quoth he) precious and pure, how fair a colour dost thou cast before mine eyes? Sweet, I say, wast thou, before such time as this ill-savouring Poyson did infect thee: And yet as thou art I nothing despise thee: O my dear Winifred, full little did I think that ever I should come to drink of thy heart blood.

My greedy eye, that glutton-like did feed upon thy beauty, and yet like the Sea, was never satisfied, is now with gore-blood fully gorged. Now may I quench my thirsty desire with love, that like hot burning coals set my heart in such an extreame heat, that it could not be quenched before this time; for if fair Winifred could spare any love from heaven, assuredly she left from her blood, her sweet heart blood I mean, that nourished her chaste life: see here is a Candle to cool my vain affections. Far be it that any true lovers should ever take the like.

But this punishment hath the just heavens poured upon me, for the preferring the love of an earthly creature, before the love of an heavenly Creator: Pardon, O Lord, the foul sins of superstitious Lovers; that while they make Idols of their ladies, they forget the honour of thy divine Majesty. Yet doth it do my heart good to think that I must bury sweet Winifreds blood in my body, whose love was lodged long ago in my heart: and there withal drinking the first draught, he said, O Lord, me seemeth this portion hath a comfortable taste, far doth it surpass the Nectar wherewith the Gods were nourished.

Well (said the Tyrant) seeing it pleaseth thee so well, thou shalt have more; And therewith another cup of the same blood was given him to drink.

Yea, come (quoth he) my thirst is not yet quenched, for the first draught gave me but a taste of sweetness, and like a longing woman, I desire the rest: and with that he drank the second draught. The third being given him, he took the Cup into his hand, and looking about, he said, Lo here I drink to all the kind Yeomen of the Gentle-Craft.

I drink to you all (quoth he) but I cannot spare you one drop to pledge me. Had I any good thing to give you, you should soon receive it; but my life the Tyrant doth take, and my flesh is bequeathed to the Fowls. So that nothing is left but only my bones to pleasure you withal, and those in they will do you any good, take them: and so I humbly take my leave, bidding you all farewell. Where with the last draught he finished his life; whose dead Carcase was hang'd up, where the fowls devoured his flesh; and the young Princess was immediately buried by the King, where she had so long lived. When had he the third glass given him, and had of Sir Winifred, by which terms they were both so call'd to this day.

CHAP. IV.

How the Shoemakers stole away St. Hugh's bones, and made them working tools thereof, and the virtue that they found in the same: whereby it came, that when any man saw a Shoemaker travelling with a Pack at his back, they would presently say, There goes St. Hugh's bones.



Upon a time it chanced that a company of Journey-men Shoemakers passed along by the place where St. Hugh's dead body was hanged, and finding the flesh pickt clean off from the bones, they entered thus into communication among themselves:

Never was St. Hugh so bare (quoth one) to carry never a whit of skin upon his bones; nor thou never so bare (saith another) to bear never a Penny in thy purse.

But now hearing you talk of St. Hugh, it brings me to remembrance of his Legacy that he gave us at his Death: What was that? said the rest: Mary (quoth he) I will tell you; when the gentle Prince saw that the cruelty of the time would not suffer him to be liberal to his friends, but that his life was taken away by one, and his flesh given to another, he most kindly bequeathed his bones unto us.

Tush (qu. another) that was but to shew his mind towards the Shoemakers, because he had received of them so many favors; For alas, what can the dead mans bones pleasure the living? No (qu. another) I can tell you; there may be as great vertue found in his bones as in the brain of a Weasill, or the tongue of a Frog: Much like (answered the rest) but I pray thee shew us what vertue is in those things you speak of. Quoth he, I will tell you: The brains of a Weasill hath this power, experientia docet, that if the powder thereof be mingled with Runnet, wherewith women make their Cheese, no Mouse dares touch it: In like manner, the tongue of a Water-Frog hath such great force; that if it be laid upon the Breast of any one sleeping, it will cause them to tell whatsoever you shall demand; for by that means Dick Wiper knew he was a Cuck old. Again, I know that those that use Travellers, are not ignorant that whosoever puts but six leaves of Mugwort in his Shoes, shall never be weary, though he travel thirty or forty miles on foot a forenoon. That indeed may be true, quoth one, for by the very same Herb my last Dame kept her Ale from souring: And if it said, That where Hoadleek is planted, the place shall never be hurt with thunder: Pimpernel is good against Whitchcraft: and because my Sister Joan carried always some about her, Mother Bumby could not abide her: therefore what vertue a dead mans bones may have, we know not till we have tryed them.

Why

Why then, said the third man, let us soon at night steal St. Hugh's bones away, and albeit the Tyrant will be displeased, yet it is no theft: for you say they were given us, and therefore we may the bolder take them, and because we will turn them to profit and avoid suspicion, we will make divers of our tools with them, and then if any virtue doth follow them, the better we shall find it.

To this motion every one gave his consent, so that the same night St. Hugh's bones were taken noisily, and the same being brought before a sort of shoemakers there they gave their opinion, That it was necessary to fulfil the will of the dead, and to take those bones as in good part, as if they were worth ten thousand pounds: whereupon one slept out and thus he say:

MY Friends I pray you list to me,
And mark what St. Hugh's bones shall be.

First a Drawer and a Dresser,
Two Wedges, a more and a lesser:
A pretty block three inches high,
In Fashion squared like a Dye,
Which shall be called by proper name,
A Heel-block, the very same:
A hard leather, and a thumb-leather likewise,

To pull out shoe-thread we must devise;
The Needle and the Thimble shall not be left alone,
The Pincers, and the Pricking-awl, and rubbing Stone,
The Awl, Steel, and Tacks, the Sowing Hairs beside,
The Stirrup, holding fast, while we sew the Cow-hides;
The Whet-stone, the Stopping-stick, and the paring knife,
Which doth belong to a Journey-mans life;
Our Apron is the Shrine to wrap these bones in;
Thus shroud we St. Hugh's bones in a gentle Lamb's skin.

Now all you good Yeomen of the Gentle-Craft, (tell me now quoth he) how like you this.

As well (replied they) as St. George doth of his horse, for as long as we can see him fight with the Dragon, we will never part from this horse. And it shall be concluded, that what Journey-man so ever he be hereafter, shall not handle his Sword nor Buckler, his Long-sword, nor a Quarter-staff, sound the Trumpet, nor play upon the Flute, and bear his part in a three mans Song, and readily reckon up his tools in Rhyme, except he have borne Colours in the field, being a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, or Corporal, shall forfeit and pay a pottle of Wine, or be counted for a Colt, to which they answered all, Viva voce, Content, content: and then after many merry songs, they departed. And next after this they travel without these Tools on their backs: which ever since were called St. Hugh's bones.

CHAP.

How Crispianus & his Brother Crispian, the two Sons of the King of Logria (through the cruelty of the Tyrant Maximinus) were fain in disguised manner to seek for their lives safety, and how they were entertained by a Shoemaker in Feverham.



When the Roman Maximinus sought in cruel sort to bereave this Land of all her Noble Youth, or Youth of Noble blood: the vertuous Queen of Logria (which now is called Kent) dwelled in the City Durovernum alias Canterbury, at the Court of Gentlemen, having at that time two young Sons, sought all the means she could possibly to keep them out of the Tyrants claws: and in this manner she spake unto them.

My dear and beloved Sons; the Joy and comfort of my age, you see the dangers of these times, and the storms of a Tyrants Reign, who having now gathered together the most part of the young Nobility, to make them slaves in a forreign Land, that are free-born in their own Country, seeketh for you also, thereby to make a clear riddance of all our born Princes, to the end he might plant strangers in their stead: Therefore (my sweet sons) take the counsel of your Mother, and seek in time to prevent ensuing danger, which will come upon us as suddenly as a storm at Sea, and as cruelly as a Tyger in the Wilderness, therefore suiting your selves in honest habits, seek some poor service to shield you from mischance, seeing necessity hath priviledged those places from Tyranny. And so (my Sons) the gracious Heavens may one day raise you to deserved dignity and honour.

The young Lads, seeing that their Mother was so earnest to have them gone, fulfilled her Commandment, and casting off their attyre, put homely garments on, and with many bitter tears took leave of the Queen their Mother, desiring her before they went to bestow her blessing upon them.

O my Sons, (quoth she) stand you now upon your ceremonies? Had I leisure to give you one kiss, it were something, the Lord bless you; get you gone; away, away, make hast I say, let not swift time overslip you, for the Tyrant is hard by: with that she pushed them out of a back door, and then sets her self down to weep.

The two young Princes, which like pretty Lambs went straying they knew not whither, at length by good fortune came to Feverham, where before the day past they heard certain Shoemakers singing, being as pleasant at their notes, as they sat at their business: and this was their Song.

Would

Would God that it were Holiday,
hey derry down, down derry;
 That with my love I might go play,
 with woe my heart is weary:
 My whole delight is in her sight,
 would God I had her company,
her company;
Hey derry down, down a down.
 My love is fine, my love is fair,
hey derry down, down derry.
 No Maid may well with her compare,
 in Kent or Canterbury;
 From me my Love shall never move,
 would God I had company, &c.
 To see her laugh, to see her smile,
hey derry down, down derry,
 Do all my sorrows clean beguile,
 and makes my heart full merry:
 No grief doth grow where she doth go,
 would God I had her company, &c.

When I do meet her on the green,
hey derry down, down derry,
 Methinks she looks like beauties Queen,
 which makes my heart full merry;
 Then I her greet with kisses sweet;
 would God I had her company, &c.
 My love comes not of churlish kind,
hey derry down, down derry;
 But bears a loving courteous mind,
 which makes my heart full merry;
 She is not coy, she is my joy,
 would God I had her company, &c.
 Till Sunday come, farewell my Dear,
hey derry down, down derry;
 When we do meet we have good cheer,
 and then I will be merry:
 If thou love me, I will love thee;
 and still delight in thy company,
thy company;
Hey derry down, down a down.

The young Princes perceiving such mirth to remain in so homely a Cottage, judged by their pleasant notes, that their hearts were not cloyed with other mirth; and therefore wished it might be their good hap to be harboured in a place of such great content.

But standing a long time in doubt what to do, like two distressed strangers combating betwixt hope and fear, at length taking courage, Crispianus knocked at the door: What knave knocks there (quoth one of the Journey-men) and by and by he takes his Quarter-staff, and opens the door, being as ready to strike as to speak: saying, What lack you? To whom Crispianus made this answer: Good Sir pardon our boldness, and measure not our truth by our rudeness, we are two poor boys that want service, stript from our friends by the fury of these wars, and therefore are we enforced succourless to crave service in any place: What, have you no friends or acquaintance in these parts to go to (said the Shoemaker) by whose means you might get preferment? Alas Sir (said Crispianus) necessity is despised of every one, and misery is trodden down of many, but seldom or never reliev'd: Yet notwithstanding, if our hope did not yield us some comfort of good hap, we should grow desperate through distress. That were great pity (said the Shoemaker) be content; for as our Dame tells our Master, a patient man is better than a strong man: Stay a while, and I will call our Dame to the door, and then you shall hear what she will say. With that he went in and forth came his Dame, who beholding the said youths, said: Now alas poor Boys, how comes it pass that you are out of service? What, would you be Shoemakers, and learn the Gentle Craft? Yes forsooth, said they, with all our hearts. Now by my troth, if you do look with honest true faces, I will intreat my Husband for you, for we would gladly have good Boys; and if you will be just and true, and serve God, no doubt but you may do well enough: Come in my Lads, come in. Crispianus and his Brother, with great reverence gave her thanks: and by that time they had stayed a little while, down came the good man, and his wife hard by his heels; saying, See Husband, these be the youths I told you of, no doubt but in time they will be good men.

Her Husband looking wishly upon them, and conceiving a good opinion of their favors, at length agreed that they should dwell with him, so that they would be bound for seven years. The youths being contented, the bargain was soon ended, and so set to their business, whereat they were no sooner settled, but that great search was made for them in all places; and albeit the Officers came to the house where they dwelt, by reason of their disguises they knew them not: having also taken upon them borrowed names of Crispianus and Crispine. Within a few days after the Queen their Mother was by the Tyrant taken, and so that she would not confess where her Sons were, she was laid in Prison in Colchester Castle, whereunto she went with as cheerful a countenance as Cateratus did, when he was led captive to Rome; coming by the place where her Sons sat at work, with a quick eye she had soon espied them: & look how a dying Coal revives in the wind, even so at this sight she became suddenly red: but making signs that they should hold their tongues, she was led along: whom seven years after her Sons did never see. But as men stand amazed at the sight of Apparitions in the Air, as ignorant of what success shall follow; even so were these two Princes agast to see their own Mother thus led away, not knowing what danger should ensue thereof.

Notwithstanding they thought good to keep their service, as their lives were in danger: at what time they both bent their whole minds to please their Master and Dame, refusing nothing that was put them to do: were it to walk abroad, scour kennels, or any other thing, whereby they thought their Dames favour might be gotten, which made her the readier to give them a good report to their Master, and to do them any other service, which otherwise they should have misdeed, following therein the nomination of an old journey-man, who would always say to the Apprentices: Howsoever things do frame,

Please well thy Master, but chiefly thy Dame.

Now by that time these two young Princes had truly served their Master the space of four or five years, he was grown somewhat wealthy, and they very cunning in their Trade: whereby the house had the name to breed the best work-men in the Country, which report in the end, preferred their Master to be the Emperours shoemaker: and by this means his servants went to Maximus Court every day: but Crispianus and Crispine, fearing they should have been known, kept themselves from thence as much as they could: notwithstanding, at the last persuading themselves that time had worn them out of knowledge, they were willing in the end to go thither, as well to hear tidings of the Queen their Mother, as also to see their own preferment.

CHAP. VI.

How the Emperours fair Daughter Arinda, fell in love with young Crispine, coming with Shoes to the Court, and how in the end they were secretly Married by a blind Fryer.

IN all the shoemakers men that came to the Court with Shoes, young Crispine was had in greatest esteem with the fair Princess, whose Mother being lately dead, he was the only son of her Father, who always sought means to match her with some worthy Roman, whose renown might ring through-out the whole World.



But fast Ursula whose bright eyes had entangled her heart with desire of the Shoemakers favor, despised all proffers of Love in regard of him. And yet notwithstanding she would oft check her own opinion, in placing her love upon a person of such low degree: thus reasoning with her self.

Most aptly is the God of Love by cunning Painters drawn blind, that so ungenerally shoots forth his fiery shafts: for had he eyes to see, it were impossible to deal in such sort as in matching Venus with foul Vulcan, poking the Imperial hearts of Kings to the love of Beggars, as he did to Coseus: & as now in my self: I find how mad a thing it would seem to the eyes of the world, than an Emperours daughters should delight in the favor of a simple Shoemaker.

Ursula, take heed what thou dost, stay not thy royalty with such indignity. That Crispines birth were agreeable to his person! for in mine eye, there is no Prince in the World comparable to him: if then while he is clothed with these rags of servitude, he appears so excellent, what would he be, were he in Princely Attire? Crispine! either thou art not as thou seemest, or else Nature, in disgrace of Kings hath made thee a Shoemaker.

In these humours would the Princess be often, especially at Crispines approach, & at his departure. For as soon as ever he came within her sight with modest, & sudden blush, like a flash of lightning, would strike in her face, & at his departure so terribly pale colour, like the beams of the bright Sun, obscured by coal black clouds. But after many weary conflicts with fancy, she fully resolved at his next coming, to enter into communication with him, but imagining his stay from the Court overlong, on the sudden she sent presently for him, finding great fault with the last shoes he brought her, at which time Crispine most humbly on his knee, greatly craved pardon for all such faults as she then found, promising amendment in the next shoes she would have.

Pray (quoth she) I'll shew thee, they are too loose something in the instep: also the heel is bad; and besides they are too strait in the toes: You shall have a pair made (said he) that fit you better, for none shall see a stitch in them but mine own self: so, take the Princess, but let me have them to soon as I may, and there with Crispine departed.

The Princess then all solitary, got her self into her Chamber, entered there into consideration, and found within her self great trouble and sorrow, while the tongue the hearts advocate was not suffered to speak. At last she heard Crispines voice, enquiring

quitting of the Ladies in the great Chamber, for the Princess: who answered that having taken little rest the night before, she was now laid down to sleep, and therefore they killed him to come again some other time: Asleep, replied the Princess, I am not asleep, bid him say: what hasty Huswife was that which sent him hence? call him again quickly I would advise you. And thereto changing melancholy into spirit, she arose up from out of her bed, as a bright Star shooting in the Element she quickly got her forth to meet the Shoemaker, whose fair sight was to her as great a comfort, as a Sunshine before a House of Rain. How now (quoth she) hast thou brought me a pair of Shooes? I have gracious Madam (quoth he) Then (quoth the Princess) come thy self and draw them on. Therewith she sitting down, lifted up her well proportioned Leg upon his gentle Knee: where by that time her Shooes were drawn on, she had prepared a good reward for her Shoemaker: and giving him a handful of Gold, she said: Thou hast so well pleased me in making of these Shooes, that I cannot but reward thee in some good sort: Therefore Shoemaker take this, and from henceforth let no man make my Shooes but thy self. But tell me Crispine, art thou now in love, that thou dost smug-up thy self so finely, thou wast not wont to go so neatly? I pray thee tell me what pretty Wench it is that is Mistress of thy Heart? Truly say Madam (quoth he) if I should not love, I might be accounted barbarous, for by Natures course, there is a mutual love in all things, the Dove and the Peacock love intirely, so doth the Turtle and the Popinjay; the like affection the fish Musculus beareth to the huge Whale, insomuch that he leadeth him from all danger of stony Rocks. And as amongst Birds and fishes, so amongst Plants and Trees, the like concord is to be found: for if the Male of Palm Trees be planted from the Female, neither of both prosper: and being set one near another, they flourish accordingly: embracing with joy the branches of one another. And for mine own part, I am in love too: For first of all I love my Maker, and next my good Master and Dame: but as concerning the love of pretty Wenches, verily Madam I am clear, and the rather do I abstain from fixing my fancy on woman, seeing so many sorrows do follow the Married sort; for a dram of delight hath a pound of pain.

That is (answered the Princess) where contention setteth the house on fire, but where true love remains there is no discontent: and what can a man more desire for this worlds comfort, but a vertuous Wife, which is reported to be a treasure inestimable. Therefore Crispine, say thy mind, if I prefer thee to a Wife, every way deserving of thy love, wouldst thou take it well?

Truly Madam (said Crispine) if I should not accept of your good will, I should shew my self more unmanly than well-nurtured. But seeing it pleaseth you to grace me with your Princely countenance, and to give me liberty to speak my mind, this is my opinion: If I were to chuse a Wife, then would I have one, Fair, Rich, and Wise: First to delight mine eye; Secondly, to supply my want: And Thirdly, to govern my House.

Then (said the Princess) her beauty will I refer unto the Judgement of thine own eyes, and her wisdom unto the tryal of time: but as concerning her Portion, I dare make some report, because it well deserveth to be praised: For at her Marriage thou shalt have a bag of rare Vertues with her. Truly Madam (quoth Crispine) such Coyne go not current among Tanners: and I know if I should go with it to the Market, it would buy me no Sole-Leather. Notwithstanding, when I do see her, I will tell you more of my mind.

The Princess taking him aside privately, walking with him in a fair Gallery, said, In looking upon me thou mayst judge of her, for she is as like me as may be: in her

Crispine heard her say so, he right modestly answered, I had rather Madam be were your own self, than like your self: and although my words favour of presumption, yet with your favour I dare boldly pronounce it, that I hold my self worthy of a Queen, if I could get her good will: and were it no danger to match with your Excellency, so it should please you, it should not dislike me.

When said the Princess, Now Shoemaker, I see thou hast some courage in thee; and doubt thou not, but if I were, of that mind, I would be as ready to guide thee from the dangerous Rocks of my Fathers wrath, as the fish called Musculus is for the Whale. But could thou be contented to dye for a Ladies love? No, Madam (quoth he) if I could keep her love and live.

Then live fair friend (answered he) enjoy my love, for I will rather dye than live without thee. Crispine hearing this was stricken into an extasy of joy, in such sort as he list not whether he was asleep or dreamed: But by that time he had summoned his wits together, with the plighting his faith, he opened his Estate and High Birth unto her, shewing all the extremities that he and his Brother had been put unto, since the death of their Royal Father, and of the imprisonment of the Queen their Mother.

Which when safe Ursula with great wonder heard, giving an earnest of her love, with a sweet Kiss she said: My dear love and most gentle Prince, ever did I think that more than a common man was shrouded in these poor Habillments, which made me the bolder to impart my mind unto thee; and now dread no more my Fathers wrath, for the fire thereof was long ago quenched.

No no (quoth Crispine) an Eagles thirst is never expelled but by blood. And albeit your Father have now (perhap) qualified the heat of his fury by the length of time, yet if he should understand of this my love to thee, it would cause him to take out of the ashes hot burning coals of displeasure again, and then might my life pay a dear price for this love.

Therefore (my dear Ursula) I desire thee, even by the power of that love thou bearest to me, to keep secret what I have shewed to thee, nothing doubting but that in time I may find release of these miseries; in the mean space we will be secretly Married; by which holy Knot, we as well in body as in heart may be unseparably tied together.

To this Ursula consented most gladly; and thereupon sollicit that she would meet him in her Fathers Park, at any hour he would appoint. Which she might do the more easily, in respect she had a Key to one of the Garden doores, which gave silent passage into the Park. The day and hour being concluded upon, they parted for this time both of them indued with such content; as in all their lives they never found the like.

And at this time there was in Canterbury a blind Friar, that in many years had never seen the Sun, so this man did Crispine go, thinking him the fittest Chaplain to chop up such a Marriage, who meeting with him at Chancery Church and evening after the Anthem, broke with him after this manner:

God speed you good father; there is a certain friend of mine that would be secretly Married in the Morning betimes, for which purpose he thinks you the fittest man to perform it in all the Cloyster; and therefore if you will be diligent to do so, and secret to conceal it, you shall have four Angels for your pains.

The Friar being fired with the desire of his gold, rubbing his Elbow, and scratching his Crown, he by the hollow bond that hung by his side, that he would be both willing and content to keep it secret. Telling him many you may tell me, I have done many

many of these years in my days: I know that youth are youth, but they would not have all the world wonder at their doings. And where shall I be, said the Fryer? Quoth Crispine, at St. Gregoryes Church: and because you shall not make your boy acquainted therewith, I myself will call you in the morning. Good Father be not forgetful to observe the time, as two of the Clock is the hour, and therefore look you be ready when I call you: I warrant you (replied the Fryer); and because I will not over-sleep my self, I will for this night lie in my Cloathes: so that as soon as ever you call, I will straight be ready: Then Father I will trust to you, (quoth Crispine) and so departed.

When he came to his Father he made not many words, but so soon as he had slept on Sunday at night, he went to his Chamber, and laid him down upon his Bed, making no creature in the house wiser to his intent, not his own Brother, his mind still running on his late Mistress, and the happy hour that with her both in one: never was there hunger, sicker man that did long more so; the sweet approach of wholesome food, than his Crispine saw two a Clock. And so soon as the silent night had drawn all things to rest, Crispine got up, and to Churchbury goes he to meet his Rose, checked as he was in her Fathers Park, who also took hold of time forsooke like clear Cynthia shaped her course to seek out Sol in the occident: But so soon as her searching eye had spied him, he commended his luck, saying: We well observed his hour: O my dear (quoth he) Rich Wears do make true men thieves: But finding thee here so happily, I will fetch the Fryer straight: He had no longer called at the Fryer door, but he presently beats him, and groping the way down, he opened the door, and along they went together; but the Fryer finding his journey longer than he expected, said: that blither St. Gregoryes Chappel was removed, or else he was not to good: a fool-man as he was thought to be in Town, likely enough (said Crispine) for how much the older you are, the more you forget the way, I at a much the weaker you are to travel to London to conduct your son, I have to the wall come to the place; and therefore good Fryer wake what speed you may, I warrant you (quoth he) and therewithal he puts his Spectacles upon his Nose. The said Prince feeling that, laughed heartily, saying, Little need hath a blind man, of pair of Spectacles; Truly Mistress (said he) as little need hath an old man, of a young wife, but you may see what use is: Though I be blind and cannot see a letter, yet I cannot lay Mass without my Book and my Spectacles: and then he proceeded to solemnise their Marriage: which being finished, the Fryer had his Obed, and home he was led: In the mean time the Princess staid still to the Park for her Witbegroom, where when he came, on a bank of sweet Primroses he pluckt the Rose of amorous delight: and after the Princess came to her Fathers Palace, and Crispine to his Masters Shop.

CHAP. VII.

How Crispianus was prest to the wars, and how he fought with Iphigastis the renowned General of the Persians, who made War upon the French-men: Shewing also the occasion that a Shoemakers Son is said to be a Prince born.

In the mean time that Crispine was secretly vexed about his Marriage, his brother Crispianus the same night, with many others, was prest to Wars into the Country of Gauls, now called France, which made his Father and Dame full of woe: who had committed to his Government the whole rule of his house. And when Crispine came home, they told him what chance had happened, and demanded where he had been: they said, they were glad he had so well escaped.

Crispine



Orpinus exulting himself as well as he could, said: We was sorry for his Wife, there too she departed; notwithstanding the joy of his late marriage mitigated much of his sorrow: to whom in his Brothers absence his Wife gave the other light of his household: which place he guided with such discretion, as thereby he got both the good will of his spouse, and the love of the household: And as he sat one day at his work he sung this song in commendation of his spouse, himself sung the Verse, and his fellows bore the Burthen.

Among the joys on Earth, though little joy there be,
hey down down a down, fine is the silk on Twine.

Among the married sort, much comfort I do see,
hey down down a down, I have it they hat list.

He that is a married man, hath beauty so embraced,
hey down down a down, and he is far more glad.

He liveth in delight, and is in happy case,
hey down down a down, in faith we will him praise.

His Wife doth dress his meat, with every thing most meet,
hey down down a down, fair women love good cheer;

And when he comes to bed, she gives him kisses sweet,
hey down down a down, for thank he pay full dear.

A hundred honey sweets he hath when that is done,
hey down down a down, the truth is seldom known:

He hath in little time a Daughter or a Son,
hey down down a down, God grant they be his own.

A Wife is evermore both faithful, true, and just,
hey down down a down, is more than you do know.

Her Husband may be sure in her to put his trust,
hey down down a down, and she will never fail.

hey down down a down, most are deceived so; buoyed yam on a, robbind
While he doth ride abroad, she looks unto his house, what he doth
hey down down a down, the finest cloth is worn; a yingind bus y amingeld
And when that he comes home, she gives him Brawn and Sowe, a school
hey down down a down; and oftentimes the Horn, ve uoth sine ailed id hait

How now, what is that you say (quoth Crispian)? Nothing (quoth they) but only
bear the burthen of your song: and surely we think it great pity that you are not
Married, seeing you can sing so well in the praise of Bachelors. Truly (quoth he)
were it not for that holy institution, what would the world buy but abroad of hapless
Bastards: like to the cursed seed of Cain, men fit for all manner of villany, and such
as would leave behind them a race of runaway persons, that would live as badly as they
are lewdly begotten.

The rest of the Youth, men hearing his words into such a deep discourse in the
matter, began themselves to understand his question, and seeing it a matter of moment
to our matter, we will leave them to their disputation, and in the mean space I will
show you something of Crispian, who is now in France, with many noble persons:
where Maximinus sent him to the Gauls, against the mighty force of Ambiorix,
the Persian General, that at this time invaded their country with a great power.
The day of battle being appointed, the Gauls met in the field, at which
time both the General and the Gauls, who were with wealth, in their proud march,
blest one another, boasting to fight both some words of advice, and thus the
General of the Gauls began:

Thou insulting Conqueror of the Eastern Troys, how durst thou set the
billion foot within our Territories? Cannot the confines of Persia content thee, and
thou conquered Kingdoms stretch in thy hand, the which unsatiable desire thou must
come to tread our right? Who thou that the drunken Gauls do scorn thee for, al-
beit that Alexander the Great looked to subvert the whole world, flattering thyself
in thy toils; yet needest thou that the Son of a Shoemaker shall have our neck
to a scabbe peak. Therefore in our just right we are come to give thee bite for the
pique, & by the force of our Swords to beat down the Creator of thy proud thoughts.

The renowned Persians upon these words made this reply: Now may I report
that the Gauls can do something, finding them such good soldiers. But know this, that I
come not to rail, but to reprove a contemptuous speech; and with the points of
our sturdy Lances to thrust them down your throats again. Indeed my Father's trade
is a reproach to me, but thou art a reproach to thy Father. But thou shalt understand
that a Shoemaker's Son is a Prince born. His Fortune made him so, and thou
shalt find no less. And hereupon the Trumpets sounding a charge, and the Drums
striking alarm, there followed a terrible and cruel fight, wherein Crispian, like a re-
cond Hector, laid about him, beating down his Foes on every side, whose valiancy
and princely courage was noted of all the Gauls; and this fierce fight ended with
the night's approach: each Army took their rest; at what time the Noble General
of the Gauls sent for Crispian, & received him with sundry kind embracements in
his Tent: he demanded of what birth he was? To whom Crispian thus answered an-
swer. Most worthy General, my birth is not mean, and my father is a Shoemaker, but by Trade I
am a Shoemaker in England.

A Shoemaker (saith the General): If such Fame will upon Shoemakers, and such
Magnanimity follow them, well were it for us if all the people in the Kingdom were
Shoemakers: And as great thanks I am to give yourings, for sending me such a
Soldier,

Souldier, as he may be proud to have such a Subject, and now right sorry am I, that ever I reproached famous Iphicratis with his Fathers trade, seeing, and it true, that Magnanimity and Knightly Prowess, is not always tyed within the compass of a noble Blood: And for my own part I will so honourably requite thy deservings, that thou shalt bless the time thou ever camest into these Wars.

The next morning the Generals joyned battle again, resolving in this fight, either by death, or victory, to make an end of these troubles; where the Souldiers on each side strove for the golden wreath of renown. The two Generals meeting in the battle, fought bravely together, in which bloody conflict, the Prince of the Gauls, was thrice by Iphicratis unhorsed, and as many times of Crispianus mounted again: but in the end the great Commander of the Western Army so mightily prevailed, that he had seized on the person of the French Prince, and was carrying him Captive to his Colours.

But so highly was Crispianus favored of Fortune, that he and his fellows met him in the midst of his conquest: who then all beset him in the Persian blood, set upon Iphicratis, and so manfully behated himself, that he recovered the Prince again, and in despite of the Persians, brought him to his royal tent; in which encounter the noble Iphicratis was sore wounded, by reason whereof, the Souldiers had rest for three or four days: in which space, Iphicratis sent the Prince of Gauls, to know what thing he saw, that in such wanton sort had rescued him out of his hands: saying, That if he could see him, he would make him Ruler of a mighty Kingdom.

The French Prince forthwith told, that he was a right baron Britain, which had performed that honourable service: but no knight, though well deserving greater dignity, but a Shoemaker in England: and thus (quoth he) a Shoemakers Son, made by a Shoemaker souldier.

When Iphicratis understood this, he sent word again to the Gauls, that for the safety of their country, he would not only cease the wars, but for ever after be a friend to the Gauls: which joyful passage when the French King understood, most willingly embayed he into him for Expresses of a happy peace: and thereupon made Crispianus a Knight.

After the which there was a great feast ordained, whereunto the renowned Iphicratis was invited, and the two Generals with Crispianus friendly met together: Whose joy was ended with sweet feasting: and Iphicratis soon after departed out of the Country with his Army, and never after annoyed them.

When the French King writing his Letter of thanks unto the Emperour Maximus, did therein certify him of the Princely acts of Crispianus, whereby he was brought into the Emperours favor: and with these Letters Crispianus returned into England.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Lady Ursula finding her self to be with Child, made great moan unto her husband Crispine, and how he provided for her a secret place, where she was delivered.

In the mean space the Lady Ursula finding her self to be with Child, and her unknown husband coming one day with her unto her, she made her moan unto him, saying: O Crispine how shall we do; the time of my sorrow and shame draweth on, I feel that living in my womb, which I fear will bring death upon us all. Why my dear Lady (answered he) art thou with Child; keep thy chamber close, and wisely excuse thy grief, untill I have found means to procure our safety.



But dost thou mean faithfully (*said she*) wilt thou not deceive me, and for fear of my Fathers wrath flye the Country? if thou shouldst do so, then were I the wretchedest Lady a live: forsake me not sweet *Crispine*, whatsoever thou dost, but take me with thee whereoever thou goest; it is not my Fathers frowns that I regard, so I may have thy favour: What do I care for a Princely Palace? an homely Cottage shall content me in thy company. O my love, I will rather learn to spin Hemp for thy shop-thred, than live without thee in the greatest pleasure.

I will not leave thee my dear love (*quoth he*) by that Faith I vow, which I plighted to thee at our blessed Marriage, and therefore be contented, and it shall not be long before I return. Leaving thus his sad Lady, he came home, and secretly brake the matter unto his Dame, desiring her counsel in this his extremity.

What, how now (*quoth she*) hast thou got a Maid with Child? Althou whorson villain, thou hast undone thy self, how wilt thou do now? thou hast made a fair hand: here is now sixteen-pence a week, besides sope and candles, beds, shirts, biggings, waist-coats, head-bands, swaddle-bands, cross-cloths, bibs, tail-coats, mantles, hose, shoes, coats, petticoats, cradle, and crickets; and beside that a standing-schoole, and a Posnet to make the child pap, and all this is come upon thee, besides the charge of her lying in: Oh *Crispine*, *Crispine*, I am heartily sorry for thee. But in good faith, if I knew the quean that hath brought thee to this folly, I would have her by the face, I swear to you: for though I speak it before thee (*Crispine*) thou art a proper fellow, and thou mightest have done full well, if thou hadst had grace; God hath done his part on thee: and wist that she began with kindness to weep, whereupon her Husband coming in asked what she alled: O man (*said she*) *Crispine*: Why, what of *Crispine* tell me; why speakest thou not? we shall lose a good servant, so we shall. What servant shall we lose, foolish woman? (*quoth he*, tell me quickly. O Husband, by Cock and Pye I swear I'll have her by the Nose. Who wilt thou have by the Nose? what the Devil art thou mad, that thou wilt not answer me?

Crispine, who at his Masters coming in hummed the Room, lending an ear unto these words, went to his Master, and said unto him: Sir, these four years have I served you, and the fish draweth near unto an end: and as I have found you a good Master to me, so I trust you have had no great cause to complain of me, though through ignorance I have sometimes made offence: And knowing at this instant no man so near a friend unto me as your self, I have thought good to impart my secret counsel unto you: something I presumed upon my good Dames favour, which made

me open that unto her, which now I wish I had not discovered: Notwithstanding, resting more upon her discretion than her secrecie, I would desire your counsel in a matter that concerns me very near. Verily, *said his Master*, if it be a thing wherein I may do thee good, thou shalt find that I will not fall from thee in thy sorrows, and therefore be not ashamed to declare thy mind: for I swear, if I may procure thee right, thou shalt put up no wrong. Why then Sir, thus it is (*quoth he*) my will running before my wit, I have gotten a Maid with Child, and I wot not in this case what to do, that I might preserve the Maid from shame, and my self from discredit: Besides, I doubt if it be known it will cost me my life; therefore in such a case good Master be secer, Tush man, fear not (*quoth he*) it is a matter of nothing: but I pray thee now tell me what wanton wagtail it is that thou hast clapt under the Apron? O Master (*quoth he*) the Kings fair Daughter *Ursula* is my love, and she it is that lives in care for my sake. Passion of my heart thou whorson Knave, *quoth his Master*, thou art a dead man; I marvel how the Devil thou camest to be so bold with her? Surely thou hast drawn on her Shooes on Sunday, I may say, thou hast left so good a token behind; but in truth my boy I commend thee that thou wouldst shoot at the fairest. Yea, Sir (*quoth Crispine*) and I have hit the mark I trow, and I do verily believe that none will shoot so near again. Nay, swear not, *said his Master*, many may aim at fair marks, and more than one man hits them now and then: but what wouldst thou have me to do in this case? My good Master (*quoth Crispine*) the truth is she is my Wife, and the very same night my Brother was prest to the Wars, I was married to her: and if you could tell me how she might be delivered of her burthen without any suspicion, I should not only remain beholding to you while I live, but would also gratifie your kindness in such sort as would content you.

His Dame all this while listened to their talk, and when she understood he spake of the Kings Daughter, and that he had Married her, she said; Now Gods blessing, on thy heart *Crispine*, that thou art so careful for thy Wife: but it maketh me wonder she should marry a Shoemaker, and a poor fellow too. Master and Dame (*quoth Crispine*) seeing I have begun, I'll shew you a further matter, as strange as the other. The necessity of these times makes many noble personages to mask in this habit, as *Aspiter* did in a Shepherd weeds: and the truth is, the Lady *Ursula* is not ignorant that by matching with me, she hath wedded a Prince; and you may say, that these five years two Princes have served you obediently, under the simple borrowed names of *Crispine* and *Crispianus*. Our Royal Father was slain by the Emperour *Maximianus*, and the Queen our Mother yet lies imprisoned: and your poor house, and these Leather Garments have been our life of defence, against the blood-thirsty Tyrant. Now you see that though there was hate toward us in the Father, yet there is love yielded us by the Daughter. This must be kept for a certain time from the knowledge of him, lest our lives pay a dear rancome for our loves. Well *Crispine* (*quoth his Dame*) be of good cheer, for I have a device in my head how to get thy Love out of her Fathers Palace, that she may be brought to bed in mine own house, without either hurt to thee, or dishonour to her, if thou wilt do as I wish thee: when you do perceive that the growe near unto the time of her travel, I would wish you to work such means, as to set a Tree on fire late in the night, that standeth somewhat near one of the Beacons upon the Sea-coast, whereby it will follow, that such watch-men that watch on our Beacons, supposing the Beacons upon the Sea-coast to be on fire, will set theirs on fire also. Then will there be a great hurly burly, with the preparation of men at Arms on all sides, to withstand the supposed foe, the which they shall never find: then (as you know) *Maximianus* with his household will be in most fear, because he is most hated: that whilst he

he is at road, the rest of his household will every one of them seek for their own safeguard, amongst the which let fair Ursula be one, who by that means singling her self alone, may take up my house, and here she may be closely kept till she be delivered; taking upon her the name and habit of a simple woman. But the truth of this matter; (quoth Crispine) I doubt it will be soon perceived and found, then how shall Lady Ursula do, for she will straight be missed? Tush, that is no matter, (quoth his Dame) and missed let her be, untill such time as she is in better case to go abroad again: so in such a tumult as then will be, they will suppose many things, that one mischance or other is befallen her; or if she be in health, that she hath wandred into the Woods; or some other uncouth place, where she might best provide for safety; and when she comes home again, I warrant thee Crispine she shall be welcome. Then said his Master, I like my Wives counsel well, therefore by my consent put it in practice: whereunto Crispine consented; and making the Lady privy to the purpose, at length it was put in execution; at which there was crying out on all sides, Arm, Arm, Arm, our Enemies are coming upon us: Where? quoth they, at Rucupium, said one; at Aragus Castle, said another; quoth the third, it is at Doris; I tell you (quoth the fourth) it is at Dover; and all this while it is but at Dover (said the fifth man) and at Dover it is undoubtedly, therefore haste haste away, for never was there more need: so that Maximinus was almost at his wits end, as one not knowing which way to turn, the crys of the people came so thick one after another: The waiting Gentlewomen left the Princess, and sought for their own safety: Thus while some were busie in carrying out the Kings Treasure, others hiding the Plate, and others the Goods, Ursula had an easie passage into the Shoemakers house.

The young Prince Crispine, was gone with the rest of the Court towards Dover, where when they came there was nothing to do: which when Maximinus saw, he was not a little glad the wars were so soon ended: But when he came to the Court and missed his Daughter, there was posting up and down in every place to seek her, but all in vain, for no man could meet with her, for which he made great lamentation, making a Proclamation throughout the whole Countrey, That whatsoever could bring her to him, he should not only have a Princely reward, but also if he were a man of Noble blood, he should be honoured with the Marriage of his said Daughter.

This was good news to Crispine, who was not to learn to make profit thereof; But by that time the Lady was light, Crispianus his eldest brother arrived in England, with great Honour, as before you have heard. And before he went to the Court, he thought it good to visit his old Master, who came also in good time to the Christening of his Brothers Child, which when he with wonder beheld, noting what a strange accident there was, that Maximinus's Daughter should be his Brothers Wife: But after that he had in Princely manner saluted the new delivered Lady, taking the Infant in his arms, he kissed it, saying: Now will I say an swear (quoth he) that A Shoemakers Son is a Prince born: joyning in the opinion of Iphicrasis, and henceforth Shoemakers shall never let their term dye.

Then turning to his Master and Dame, he said; How much dear Master and Dame, are we bound to your favours, that have maintained our Honours with our Happiness, for by this means I hope we shall make a joyful conclusion of our sorrowful beginning, and I will so work, that the Emperor shall confirm what is already begun; I mean, the Honour due to these Princely Lovers, and together with our happy fortunes procure our Mothers liberty.

Hereupon within a short time after he made preparation to the Court, he attended

himself in Princely manner, and with a most knightly grace, he delivered to Maximinus the King of Gauls Letter; where he certified the Emperour of the Honourable Deeds perfozmed by Crispianus, whereupon he receibed him to great favour, and said unto him, Right Renowned Knight, for the great honour thou hast done me in France, I will honour thee with any thing thou shalt command, that standeth with the Majesty and credit of an Emperour to give. Then I beseech your Highness (quoth he) to grant me the life and liberty of my dear Mother, that Late Queen of Logria. Art thou her Son, said Maximinus? Although thy Father was my Foe, yet mult I needs say he was a most couragious and War-like Prince; thy suit is granted: and once I had a daughter was worthy of thy love, but unconstant fortune hath bereft me of that bliss. But had it pleased the fair Heavens to have left her to me this day, I would have made thee more honourable by her match; but seeing my wishing doth nothing profit thee, take hence the richest Jewel that I have, and be thou next my self in authority. With that he took from his own Neck a Collar of precious Diamonds, and gave it to Crispianus, saying, Be thou as fortunate as Polyrate.

CHAP. IX.

How fair Ursula came before her Father, with Crispine her Husband, who was joyfully received by him, and in the end had his good will to confirm the Marriage betwixt them: whereupon there was great joy on both sides: and the Shoo-makers in honour of this happy day make a joyful Song.



Within a certain space after, word was brought to the Emperour, that his Daughter was with a Shoomaker come to the Court, whereat Maximinus was stricken into a sudden joy, saying: An honourable Shoomaker may he be that hath brought me my fair Daughter again; welcome my sweet Ursula, and in good time welcome to thy Father, and welcome also is this happy young man that hath so fortunately brought thee: and turning to Crispianus he said, Noble Sir Knight, take here my Daughter to Wife: not so dear Father (quoth he) this man hath best deserved my love, that hath preserved my life, and his wife will I be. Why Ursula, said her Father, wilt thou darken the sunshine of my joy, with clouds of foul obstinacy, and voke thy self so unequally; This man is a Prince: And this mans Son is another (quoth he) That is strange, said the Emperour, can that Child be a Prince, whose Father is but a Shoomaker?

Then

Then answered U-sula, My Royal Father, ~~at Shoomakers Son~~ to a Prince born. Most gracious Lord (quoth Crispianus) the ~~what~~ sentence did I hear the Renowned Epieratis pronounce to the King on ~~U-sula~~ when he ~~up~~traded him with his birth. With that Crispines Dame presented the Child to the Emperour, and said U-sula was very diligent to uncover the Childs face, and held it to her Father. Why Daughter (quoth he) art thou not ashamed to shew me this base born bear so much? hence with the Elf: and therewithal pushed it from him, whereat his Daughters tears trickled down her Cheeks, and so kissing the Child gave it again to the woman. What (said Maximinus) dost thou love the Child so well that thou must kiss it, and weep for it? I have cause her dear Father (quoth she) for that this Childs Mother lay in my Mothers Belly.

At these words the Emperour suspected something, & demanded of Crispine of what Parentage he was; and then knowing that he was Crispianus's Brother, all the controversie was ended, and their secret Marriage confirmed openly with great joy and triumph: at which time the Shoomakers in the same Town made halloay, to whom Crispine and Crispianus sent most Princely gifts for to maintain their meritment: And ever after upon that day at night, the Shoomakers make great cheer, and feasting in remembrance of these two Princely Brethren: and because it might not be forgotten, they caused their names to be placed in the Kalender for a yearly remembrance, which you shall find in the month of October, three days before the Feast of Simon and Jude.

The Shoomakers Song on Crispianus Night.

TWO Princely Brethren once there were, right Sons unto a King,
Whose Father, Tyrant Maximinus to cruel death did bring:
Crispianus one was call'd the eldest of the two.

Crispine was the others name, which well had learn'd to wooe.

These Brethren then, were after fain from Fathers house to flye,

Because their Foes to spoyle their lives, in privy wait did lye.

Into a kind Shoomakers house, they suddenly stept in.

And there to learn the Gentle Craft did presently begin.

And five years space they lived so, with great content of mind.

So that the Tyrant could not tell whereas he should them find.

Though every day to Court they came, with Shooes for Ladies feet.

They were not known by their attire, they us'd themselves to meet.

At length unto the furious Wars, Crispianus prest.

Whereas his Knightly prowess then, he try'd above the rest.

But Crispine found him better sport, would I had Crispine been.

The Kings fair Daughter lov'd him well, as it was after seen.

The length of this fair Ladies foot so well did Crispine know,

That none but he could please her mind, the certain truth is so:

Came he by night or else by day, he was most welcome still.

With kisses sweet she did him pay, and thanks for his good will.

So oft these Lovers twain did meet, by day and eke by night.

That at the last the Lady said she should be shamed quite.

What was the matter, tell me true, that so her sorrow bred.

Her Shoomaker most daintily, had got her Maiden-head.

But at the length so wisely wrought, as doth the story tell.

Her Fathers right good will he got, and every thing was well.

And

And Crispinus came again from Wars Victoriously;
Then Shoemakers make Holiday; and therefore so will I;
And now for Crispinus sake, this Wine I drink to thee,
And he that doth his mark mistake, and will not now pledge me,
He is not Crispinus friend, nor worthy well I wot,
To have a Lady to his Love, as Crispine he hath got.

C H A P. X.

How Sir Simon Eyre being at first a Shoemaker, became in the end Mayor of London, through the Counsel of his Wife: And how he broke his fast every day on a Table that he said he would not sell for a thousand pounds: And how he builded Leaden-hall.



Our English Chronicles do make mention, that sometime there was in the honorable City of London, a worthy Mayor, known by the name of Sir Simon Eyre, whose name liveth in the mouth of many men to this day, who albeit he descended from mean Parentage, yet by Gods blessing in the end he came to be a most worthy man in the Common-wealth.

This man being brought young out of the North-Country, was bound Prentice to a Shoemaker, bearing then the name of the Gentle-Craft (as still it doth) his Master being a man of reasonable wealth, set many Journey-men and Prentices to work, who followed their business with great delight, which quite excludeth all idleness; so when servants do sit at their work like Dismalaries, then their minds are never lightly on their business: for it is an old Proverb;

They prove Servants kind and good,

That sing at their business like Birds in a Wood.

Such Fellows had this young Lad, who was not behind with many Northern Nigs, to answer their Southern Songs: This youth, being the youngest Prentice in the House, as occasion served, was often sent to the Conduit for water, whereby in a short time he fell acquainted with many other Prentices, coming thither for the same intent.

Now their custom was, that every Sunday morning, others of these Prentices did use to go to a place near the Conduit, to break their fast with Bunning Pies, and often they would take Simon along with them; but upon a time it fell out, that when

He should have money to pay the Boot with the rest, that he had none, whereupon he merrily said unto them; My faithful Friends, and Conduits, Companions, treasurers of the Water-Tankard, and main Pillars of the Pudding-house; I may now compare my Purse to a barren Doe, that yields the Keeper no more good than an empty Carcase; or to a bad Nur, which being opened hath never a Kernel: Therefore if it will please you to pardon me at this time, and excuse me for my part of the Boot, I do here vow unto you, that if ever I come to be Lord Major of the City, I will give a breakfast to all the Prentices in London. We do take your word, (quoth they) and so they departed.

It came to pass that, Simon having at length worn out the time of his Prentice-ship, that he fell in love with a Maiden that was near Neighbour unto him, unto whom at length he was married and got him a Shop, and laboured hard daily, and his young wife was never idle, but straight when she had nothing to do, she sat in the Shop and spun, and having lived thus alone a year or thereabout, and having gathered something together, at length he got him some Prentices, and a Journey-man or two, and he could not make his ware so fast as he could have sold it, so that he stood in great need of a Journey-man or two more.

At last one of his servants espying one go along the street with a farole at his back, called to his master, saying: Sir, yonder goes St. Hugh's bones, twenty pound to a penny: Run presently (quoth he) and fetch him hither: The Boy running forth called to the man, saying: Good fellow come hither, here is one would speak with you. The fellow being a French-man that had not long been in England, turning about, said: Hea, what you see? will you speak wed me? Hea, what you have? tell me what you have. Hea? And with that coming to the Stall, the good man askt him if he lackt work, we permafoy quoth the French-man Hereupon Simon took him in, and to work he went merrily, where he behaved himself so well, that his Master made a good account of him, thinking he had been a Batchelor, but in the end it was found other-
wise.

This man was the first that wrought upon the low cut shoe, with the square toe, and the latchet overthwart the instep; before which time, in England they did wear a high shoe that reached above the Ankles, right after the manner of our husband-men's shoes at this day, save only that it was made very sharp at the toe, turning up like the tail of an Island Dog; or as you see a Cock carry his hinder feathers.

Now it is to be remembred, that while John Denevale dwelt with Simon Eyer, it chanced that a Ship of the Isle of Candy, was driven upon our Coast, laden with all kind of Laines and Cambricks, and other Linnen Cloath, which commodities at that time were in London very scant and exceeding dear; and by reason of a great leak the Ship had got at Sea, being unable to sail any further, he would make what profit he could of his goods here.

And being come to London it was John Denevales chance to meet him in the streets, of whom the Merchant in the Greek tongue, demanded where he might have a lodging, for he was one that had never been in England before, and being unacquainted, wist not whither to go, but while he spake Greek, John Denevale answered him still in French, which tongue the Merchant understood well: And therefore being glad that he had met with one that could talk with him, he declared unto him what tempest he endured at Sea, and also how his Ship lay upon the Coast, with such Commodities as he would sell: Truly Sir (quoth John) I am my self but a stranger in this Country, and utterly unacquainted with Merchants, but I dwell with one in the City, that is a very honest man, and it may be that he can help you to some that will deal with you.

you for it, and if you think it good, I will move him with it, and in the mean space I'll bring you where you may have a very good lodging; to morrow morning I will come to you again.

Sir, said the Merchant, if you please to do me that favour I'll not only be thankful unto you for the same, but also in most honest sort will content you for your pains: and with that they departed.

Now so soon as John the Frenchman came home, he moved that matter unto his Master, desiring him that he would do what he could for the Merchant. When his Master had heard each circumstance, noting therewith the want of such commodities in the Land, he cast in his mind as he stood cutting out his work, what was the best to be done in this case. saying to his man John, I will think upon it betwixt this and the morning, and then I will tell you my mind; and therewithal casting down his cutting knife, he went out of his Shop into his Chamber, and therein walking up and down alone very sadly, ruminating hereon: he was so far in his muse, that his Wife sending for him to supper two or three times, he nothing regarded the Wives call, hammering this matter in his head; at last his Wife came to him, saying: Husband, what mean you that you do not come to supper? Why speak you not man? hear you? good Husband come away, your meat will be cold: but for all her words he stayed walking up and down still like a man that had sent his wife a Woolgathering, which his wife seeing, pulled him by the Sleeve, saying; Why Husband, in the name of God, why come you not, will you not come to supper to night? I called you a good while ago: Body of me, Wife, I promise thee I did not hear thee: No Faith, it seemeth so (quoth she) I marvel whereupon your mind runneth: Believe me Wife (quoth he) I was studying how to make my self Lord Mayor, and thee a Lady.

Now God help you (quoth she) I pray God make us able to pay every man his own, that we may live out of debt and danger, and drive the Woolf from the door, and I desire no more. But Wife, said he, I pray thee now tell me, dost thou not think that thou couldst make a shift to bear the name of a Lady, if it be put upon thee? In truth Husband (quoth she) I'll not dissemble with you, if your wealth were able to bear it, my mind will bear it well enough. Well Wife, replied he, I tell thee now in sadness, that if I had money, there is a commodity now to be bought, the gains whereof would be able to make thee a Gentlewoman for ever. Alas Husband, that dignity your Trade allows you already, being a Squire of the Gentle Craft, then how can you be less than a Gentleman, seeing your Son is a Prince born? Tush Wife, quoth he, those Titles do only rest in Name, but not in nature: but of that sort I had rather be, whose Lands are answerable to their Virtues, and whose Rents can maintain the greatness of their mind. Then sweet Husband tell me, said his Wife, tell me what commodity is that which you might get so much by? I am sure your self hath some Money, and it shall go very hard but I'll procure friends to borrow one forty shillings; and beside that, rather than you shall lose so good a bargain, I have a couple of Crowns that saw no Sun since we were first Married, and them also shall you have. Alas Wife, (said Simon) all this comes not near the matter; I confess it would do some good in buying some backs of Leather, but in this thing 'tis nothing, for this is Merchandize that is precious at this time, and rare to be had: and I hear, that whosoever will have it, must lay down three hundred pounds ready Money. Yes Wife, and yet thereby he might get three and three thousand pounds profit.

His wife hearing him say so, was inflamed with the desire thereof, as women are for the most part very covetous: That matter running still in her mind, she could

Want-kind in her heart to spare him time to go to supper, for very eagerness to animate him on to take that Bargain upon him: Wherefore so soon as they had suppt and given God thanks, she called her husband, saying: I pray you come hither, I would speak a word with you: That man is not always to be blamed, that sometimes takes counsel of his Wife, though Womens Wits are not able to comprehend the greatest things, yet in doubtful matters they oft help on a sudden.

Well Wife, what mean you by this; (said her husband) In truth, quoth she, I would have you to pluck up a mans heart, & speedily chop up a bargain for these goods you speak of. Who I, quoth he, which way should I do it: that am not able for three thousand pounds to lay down three thousand pence: Tush man, quoth she, what of that: every man that beholds a man in the face, knows not what he hath in his purse: and whatsoever he be that owns the goods, he will no doubt be content to stay a month for his money, or three weeks at the least: and I promise you, to pay a thousand pounds a week is a pretty round payment, and I may say to you, not much to be misliked of.

Now husband, I would have you in the morning, with John the Frenchman go to the Grecian Merchant, and with good discretion buye a sound bargain with him for the whole freight of the Ship, and thereupon give him half a dozen Angels earnest, and eight and twenty days after the delivery of the goods, condition to deliver him the rest of his money: But woman (quoth he) dost thou imagine that he will take my word upon so weighty a mass of money, and to deliver his goods upon no better security;

Good Lord, quoth she, have you not wit in such a case to make shift; I'll tell you what you shall do: Be not known that you bargain for your own self, but tell him that you do it in the behalf of one of the chief Alderman in the City: but beware in any case that you leave with him your name in writing, he being a Grecian cannot read English, and you have no need at all to shew John the Frenchman, or if you should, it were no matter, for you can tell well enough, that he can neither write nor read.

I perceive Wife, quoth he, thou wouldst fain be a Lady, and worthy thou art to be one, that dost thus employ thy Wits to bring thy Husband profit: but tell me, if he should be desirous to see the Alderman to confer with him, how shall we do then: Heavens have mercy upon us, quoth she, you say women are fools, but me seemeth men have need to be taught sometimes: Before you come away in the morning, let John the Frenchman tell him, that the Alderman himself shall come to his Lodging in the afternoon, and receiving a note of all the goods that be in the Ship, he shall deliver unto him a Bill of his Hand for the payment of his money, according to that time. Now sweet-heart, quoth she, this Alderman shall be thine own self, and I'll go borrow for thee all things that shall be necessary, against that time. Tush, quoth her Husband, canst thou imagine that he seeing me in the morning, will not know me again the afternoon: Go Husband, quoth she, he will not know thee I warrant thee: for in the morning thou shalt go to him in thy doublet of Sheeps-skin, with a smutched face, and thy Apron before thee, thy Thumb-leather and Hand-leather buckled close to thy wrist, with a foul Band about thy Neck, and a greasie cap on thy Head. Why Woman, quoth he, to go in such sort would be a discredit to me, and make the Merchant doubtful of my dealing: for men of simple attire, are (God wot) slenderly esteemed.

Hold your peace good Husband, quoth she, it shall not be so with you, for John the Frenchman shall give such good report to the Merchant for your honest dealing, as

I praise God, he can do no less) as the German will rather conceive the better of you, than otherwise, judging you a prudent and discreet man, that will not make a shew of that you are not, but go in your attire agreeable to your trade. And because none of our folks shall be pishy to our intent, to morrow we will dine at my Cousin John Barbers, in St. Clements Lane, which is not far from the George in Lombard-street, where the Merchant stranger lies. Now I'll be sure that all things shall be ready at my Cousin John's, that you may put on in the afternoon. And there he shall first of all with his Scissors, snay off all the superfluous Hairs and fashion thy bushy Beard after the Aldermans grave cut: then shall he wash thee with a sweet Camphire Ball, and bespinkle thy head and face with the purest Rose-water: then shalt thou scour thy pithy fingers in a Basen of hot water, with an ordinary Washing-Ball: And all this being done, strip thee from these common weeds, & I'll put thee on a very fine doublet of tawny Satten, over which thou shalt have a Cassock of branched Damask, furred round the skirts with the finest foyne, thy Breeches of black Velvet, and Shoes and stockings fit for such array; a band about thy neck as white as the driven snow, and for thy wrists a pretty pair of cuffs and on thy head a cap of the finest black: then shalt thou put on a fine Cotton, belted about with Velvet, and overthwart thy back, thwart it shall be with rich foyne, with a pair of sweet Gloves on thy hands, and on thy fore-finger a great Seal Ring of Gold.

Thou being thus attired, I'll intreat my Cousin John Barber because he is a very handsome young-man, neat and fine in his apparel, as indeed all Barbers are, that he would take the pains to wait upon you unto the Merchant, as if he were your man, which he will do at the first, because one of you cannot understand the other, so that it will be sufficient with outward courtesie, one to greet another, and he to deliver unto you his note, and you to give him your Bill, and so to come home.

It doth my heart good to see how trimly this apparel doth become you, in faith husband, me seem in my mind I see you in it already, & how like an Alderman you will look when you are in this costly array. At your return home from the Merchant, you shall put off all these cloaths at my Cousins again, and come home as you did go forth: then tell John the Frenchman, that the Alderman was with the Merchant this afternoon, you may send to him in the morning, & bid him to command that his Ship may be brought down the River: while she is coming about you may give notice to the Linnen-Drapers of the Commodities you have coming. Enough will he, thou hast said enough; and by the grace of God I'll follow thy counsel, and I doubt not but to have good fortune.

CHAP. XI.

How Simon Eyer was sent for to my Lord Mayors to Supper, and shewing the great entertainment he and his Wife had there.

After supper time drew near, the making her self ready in the best manner she could possibly, passed along with her Husband unto my Lord Mayors House; and being entred the great Hall, one of the Officers certified my Lord Mayor, that the great rich Shoemaker and his Wife were already come. Whereupon the Lord Mayor in courteous manner came into the Hall to Simon, saying: You are most heartily welcome good Master Eyer, and so is your gentle help-tow. Then came the Lady Mayoreess and saluted them both in like manner, saying: Welcome good Master Eyer, and Mistress Eyer both: and taking her by the hand, set her down among the Gentlewomen there present.



Sir, quoth the Lord Mayor, I understand you are a Shoemaker, and that it is you that have bought all the goods of the great Rigoz. I am indeed, my Lord, of the Gentle-Craft, quoth he, and I praise God, all the goods of the great Rigoz are mine own, when my debts are paid.

God give you much joy of them, said the Lord Mayor, and I trust you and I shall deal for some part thereof. So the meat being then ready to be brought in, the Guests were placed, each one according to their calling. My Lord Mayor holding Simon by the Hand, and the Lady Mayore's holding his Wife, they needs would have them sit near to themselves, which they then with blushing cheeks refusing, my Lord said unto them, holding his cap in his hand:

Master Eyer, and Mistress Eyer, let me intreat you not to be troublesome, for I tell you it shall be thus; and as for these Gentlemen here present, they are all of mine own acquaintance, and many times we have been together, therefore I dare be the bolder with them, and albeit you are our neighbours also, yet I promise you, you are strangers to my Table: and to strangers, common courtesie doth teach us to the to the greatest favour, therefore let me rule you in my own House, and you shall rule me in yours.

When Simon found there was no remedy, they sat them down, but the poor Woman was so abashed, that she did eat but little meat at the Table, behaving her self at the Table with a comely and modest countenance, but what she wanted in outward feeding, her Heart yielded to her with inward delight and content.

So in so it was, many men that knew not Simon, and seeing him in so simple attire sit next my Lord, whisperingly asked one another what he was: and it was enough for Simon's Wife, with her eyes and ears, to see and hearken after every thing that was said or done.

A grave wealthy Citizen sitting at the Table, spake to Simon, and said: Sir, in good will I drink to your good health, but I beseech you pardon me, for I know not how to call your name. With that my Lord Mayor answered him saying: His name is Master Eyer, and this is the Gentleman that bought all the goods that came in the Black Swan of Candy, and beseege God, though he sit here in simple sort, for his wealth, I do verily believe, he is more sufficient to bear this place than my self: this was a man that was never thought upon, living obscure amongst us, of none account in the eyes of the World, carrying the countenance but of a Shoemaker, and none of the

best neither, and is able to deal for a bargain of five thousand pounds at a clay. We do want many such Shoemakers (said the Citizen) and so with other discourse dined out Supper: at what time rising from the Table, Simon and his Wife receiving sundry salutations of my Lord Mayor and his Lady, and all the rest of the Wholesome guests, departed home to their own house, at what time his Wife made such a recital of the matters, how bravely they were entertained, what great cheer was there, also what a great company of Gentlemen and Gentlewomen were there, and how often they drank to her Husband and to her, with others other circumstances, that I believe that if the night had been six months long, as it is under the North pole, they would have found talk enough till morning. Of a truth, quoth she, although I sat close by my Ladies side, I could eat nothing for very joy to hear and see that we were so much made of: And never give me credit husband, if I did not hear the Officers whisper as they stood behind me, & all demanded one of another what you were, and what I was: O, quoth one, do you see this man? mark him well, and mark his Wife well, that simple Woman that sits next my Lady, what are they? what are they? quoth another: Warry this is the rich Shoemaker that bought all the goods in the great Argozy; I tell you there was never such a Shoemaker seen in London since the City was builded.

Now by my faith, quoth the third, I have heard much of him to day among the Merchants in the streets, going between the two Chains. Credit me Husband, of mine honesty, this was their communication. Nay, & do you not remember when the rich Citizen drank to you (which craved pardon because he knew not your name) what my Lord Mayor said: Sir, quoth he, his name is Master Ever: did you mark that? and presently thereupon he added these words: This is the Gentleman that bought, & so forth: The Gentleman understood you: did you hear him speak that word?

In troth Wife, quoth he, my Lord uttered many good words of me, I thank his honour, but I heard not that. So, quoth she, I heard it well enough, for by and by he proceeded further, saying: I suppose though he sit here in simple sort, he is more sufficient to bear this charge than my self. Yea, though I, he may thank his Wife for that, if it come to pass. Nay, said Simon, I thank God for it. Yea, and next time, you may thank me, quoth she: And it did her so much good to talk of it, that I suppose if she had lived till this day, she would yet be prating thereof, and if sleep did not drive her from it.

And now seeing that Simon the Shoemaker is become a Merchant, we will temper our tongue to give him the Title which his customers were wont to do, and from henceforth call him Master Eyer, who while he had his affairs in hand, committed the government of his Shop to John the Frenchmar, leaving him to be guide to his other Servants; by means of which labour, John thought himself at that time to be a man of no small reputation,

CHAP. XII.

How John the Frenchman fell in love with one of his Mistrisſes Maids, and how he was crossed through the craft of Haunce the Dutchman,



At the same time there was dwelling in the House a ſilly Welch, whose name was Florence, whom John the Frenchman loved dearly well, and for her only sake he brought many a good Bottle of Wine into the House, & therewithal so soon as their Maſter and Miſtriſs were gone to bed, they would oftentimes make merry amongst themselves, which Haunce a Journey-man in the same House perceiving, sought to croſe him as much as in him lay, thereby to bring his own purpose the better to paſs, which was to joyn the Maidens favours to his own affections.

And because the Frenchman had the greatest gains under his Maſter, and being thereof no niggard when he had got it, the Maſter did moſt delight in him, and little eſteemed the Dutchman, though his good will was as great towards her as the other: for they could not be in any corner of the House together, nor could they meet in any place abroad, but the Dutchman would still watch them.

Upon a time Florence being at Market, her Love John went forth of the Shop to meet her, and Haunce ſtriped not long behind, who at length eſpyed them, and heard his fellow John queſtioning with her in this sort:

What Florence, what have you in your Basket? hea, let me ſee what you buy, ſorry John, quoth ſhe, I have bought Beef & Mutton, & other things: Come, come muſt you peep in my Basket, quoth ſhe, away for ſhame, away. Be Coſ Florence, me will ſee a little, ha, ha! Florence, you buy de pudding: hea you love de puddings Florence, hea? Pea Sir, quoth ſhe, what if I do love pudding, what care you: of my fra Florence, if I be your husband, me will give you pudding ſhall warren. My husband, quoth ſhe, in faith Sir, no, I mean not to marry a Frenchman: What Florence, de Frenchman be de good man: but Flor, me will give you a point of wine by me treat.

O I cannot ſtay now, I thank you John. What, quoth he, Florence, no ſtay with your friend: I ſhall make you ſtay a little time: & ſo with that, taking her by the hand, into the Tavern they go,; and Haunce the Dutchman following them, ſat cloſely in the next room, & by that means he heard all that they ſaid, and that they appointed the next Sunday to go to Miſton together, and there to be merry, and ſo the ſpats haſting away, they departed.

Well, quoth Haunce ſecretly to himſelf, it ſhall go hard but I ſhall diſappoint you.

Sunday in the afternoon being come, John the Frenchman, according to his appointment, went before to Islington, leaving Florence to come after with another Maid, which dwelt in the same House, whilst he prepared good cheer for their coming; and the more to make her merry, he hired a noise of Musicians to attend their pleasure.

And as it after hapned, his fellow Haunce presented this sport, who watching in the fields for Florence, at length he spied her coming: to whom he said, Well met Florence, your friend John hath changed his mind, for whereas he appointed you to meet him at Islington, you shall lose your labour so to do, for he is not there. So, how so, said Florence. The reason is, said Haunce, so far as I can understand by him, he thinks you are very fickle and unconstant, and because it was his chance this morning to see you speak to a young man that passed by, he saith verily, that you are a marvellous great dissembler, and in this humour he is gone I know not whither.

And so it even so, said Florence: I'll tell thee what Haunce, because he hath made thee party to his mind, I will shew thee somewhat of mine: Dost he suspect me because I did but speak to one? Say, if he be so jealous now, what will he be hereafter: and therefore inasmuch as it is so, let him go to the Devil, he shall very well find that I will set as light by him as he doth by me. Did the Knave get leave of my spirits for me to come abroad this day, and doth he now serve me thus: Well, this shall teach me wait in faith, and so we turn back again.

Say, quoth Haunce, seeing now you are abroad, let me intreat you to go to Hogsdon, and I will bestow a morsel of Cream upon you. In the end she was won, and as they walked together, Haunce spoke thus unto her: I know not what cause John the Frenchman hath given you to bear him so good will, as I perceive you do, but in my mind he is a far nimble match for you. And thus much I know, he is of a very industrious nature, a wavering mind, and deceitful heart: he doth profess great good will to you in outward shew, but I have heard him speak most shamefully of you behind your back, making his vaunts that he had you at a beck of his finger any other way for a price of Wine he could cause you to follow him up and down all over the City: Florence, I am a fool to tell you thus much, it may be you will scarce believe it, and for my part I will not urge you therunto: but in troth, look what I tell you, it is for good will, because I have been sorry to see you abused.

I thank you good Haunce, quoth she, I may believe it well enough, but from henceforth I know what I have to do: I confess indeed that I have drank with him abroad, but it was at his own earnest entreaty, neither could I ever be quiet for the Knave, he doth so follow me up and down in every place: but seeing I know his dissimulation to be such, if I do not requite him in his kind, trust me no more: and now I am heartily sorry that I was so foolish as to follow him this day at his appointment, but seeing he hath served me thus, he shall not know of my coming out of doors, and therefore good Haunce do not tell him you met me this day in the fields.

Now in faith Florence (quoth he) I will not only be secret to thee, but will also from henceforth acquaint thee with all my proceedings. And having eaten their Cream, Haunce brought her some part of the way homewards; and taking his leave of her, he went back to see if he could meet with John the Frenchman, who having stayed at Islington for Florence until almost night, and he not coming, he and the Musicians together were fain to eat up the meat without more company, which caused John the Frenchman to swear like a Turk.

And as he was coming homeward over the field, chaffing and fretting to himself, who should he meet withal but Haunce the Watchman, who said to him: What John, who thought to meet you here: Here thou seest I am now said John, but when come

pon from home: Marry but even now quoth Haunce. And who is at home, saide John, The other answered, there was no body but their Wistress, and the spawd Florence, with the rest of the Household: As Florence at home, saide John? the Devil take her for me, she hath made a right fool of me indeed. Poto so, quoth Haunce: Then the other in a great chafe saide: Be Got shall be revenged, Florence make on me too much, too much, she make me belteve the love me, & methink so too: and be Got she make me a Jack fool. When Haunce heard him say so, he saide: Alas good John! she love thee! if you think so, you are greatly deceived, for she is the sekingest Quean in London, and I have heard her behind your back, to mock and scott you, saying: Doth shirten John think that I will marry him, in faith shirten: When the Frenchman heard this, he stamp like a mad man, and bit his thumb, saying: For aue me shall be revenged be Got: Whitten John, call a Whitten John, hea: Adeput in corrogh, ame want, Whitten John, no better name but Whitten John? It is as I tell you, quoth Haunce: & moreover, the said, she scorned to come after you to Illington, saying: she would see you hanged first! Well, be no matter, she no love me, me no love she, but me shall go home, me shall, and beat her like a Stock fish: Say, do not so, saith Haunce, but let her alone, for it is no credit for you to beat a Woman: and besides that, if you should, our Master would turn you out of doors, therefore be quiet a while, and be secret in that I have told you, then shall you see how she useth you.

In this manner they departed, at what time John full of melancholy stood, following by the fires side, and as the spawd went up and down the House about her business, he casts looks on her as fierce as a Panther: but she by reason of the Dutchmans tale to her, weins her self as scornful as he was churlish, and not once cast her eye toward him, and thus they drowe on the time for a fortnight or fortnight.

CHAP. XIII.

How Master Ever was called upon to be Sheriff of London, and how he held his place with Worship.



In this space Master Ever following his business, had sold so much of his spirit, that he had sold the Dectian his whole money, & yet had nothing to himself three times as much as he had sold, therefore he trusted him of it to one Alderman, and some to another, & a great deal amongst substantial merchants: & for some had much ready money, which he employed in divers merchandizes, & became adventurer at Sea having (by Gods blessing) many prosperous voyages, so that his riches daily increased.

It chanced upon a time, that being in his study casting up his accounts, he found himself to be clearly worth twelue or thirteen thousand pounds: which he finding to be so, called his Wife to him, and said:

The last day I did cast up my accounts, and I find that Almighty God of his goodness, hath lent me thirteen thousand pounds to maintain us in our old age, for which his gracious goodness towards us, let us with whole hearts give his glorious Majesty eternal praise, and therewithal pray unto him, that we may so dispose thereof, as may be to his Honour, and the Comfort of his poor members on earth, and above our Neighbours we may not be puffed up with pride, that while we think on our wealth, we forget God that lent it us: for it hath been an old saying of a wise man: That abundance groweth from riches, and disdaine out of abundance: of which God give us grace to take heed, and grant us a contented mind.

So soon as he had spoken this, he heard one hastily knocking at doore, whereupon he sent Florence to see who it was, the Maidsen coming again, told her Master it was one of my Lord Mayors Officers, that would speak with him. The Officer being permitted to come in: after due reverence, he said: Sir, it hath pleased my Lord Mayor, with the Worshipful Aldermen his Brethren; with the council of the whole Commonalty of the Honourable City, to chuse your Worship Sheriff of London this day, and have sent me to desire you to come and certifie your mind therein, whether you be contented to hold the place or no.

Master Eyer hearing this, answered: he would come to his Honour, and there two hours incontinent, and resolve them what he was minded to do: and so the Officer departed.

His Wife (which all this while listened to their talk) hearing how the case stood, with a joyfull countenance meeting her Husband, taking him about the neck, with a loving kiss, said: Master Sheriff, God send thee joy of thy name and place. My Wife (quoth he) my person is far unworthy of that place, & the name far exceeds my degree.

What content your self good Husband, quoth she, and disabie not your self in such sort, but be thankful unto God for what you have, & do not spurn at such promotion as God sendeth you: The Lord be praised for it, you have enough to discharge the place whereunto you are called with credit: and wherefore sendeth God goods, but therewithal to do him and your Country service? Woman (quoth he) soft fire makes sweet malt; for such as take things in hand rashly, repent it suddenly: to be Sheriff of London is no little cost. Consider first, quoth he, what house I ought to have, and what costly ornaments belong thereunto; as hangings of Tapestry, elbath of Arras, and other such like, what store of Plate, and goblets of Gold, what costly attire, and what a chargeable train, and that which is most of all, how greatly I stand charged beside to our Sovereign Lord the King, for answering of such prisoners as shall be committed to my custody, with a hundred matters of such importance, which are to such an Office belonging.

Good Lord Husband, quoth she, what need all these repetitions: you need not tell me it is a matter of great charge: notwithstanding, I verily think many heretofore have with great credit discharged the place, whose wealth hath not in any sort been answerable to your riches, and whose wits have been as mean as your own: Truly Sir, shall I be plain: I know not any thing that is to be spoken of, that you want to perform it: but only your good will, and so lack good will to do your King and Country good, were a sign of an unworthy subject, which I hope you will never be.

Well Wife (said her Husband) thou hast held me here with little pattle, while the time passeth on, it is high time I were gone to Guild-hall I doubt I shall appear too

unmannerly in causing my Lord Mayor, and the rest to stay my leisure. And he having made himself ready, meet to go before such an Assembly as he went unto, he went out of doores, at what time his Wife called after him, saying, and holding up her finger.

Husband, remember, you know what I have said: take heed you dissemble not with God and the world, look to it Husband: go, get you in quoth he, about your business, and so away he went.

So soon as he was gone out of sight, his Wife sent one of his men after him, to Guild-hall, to hearken and hear whether he held his place or no; And if he do, bring me word with all possible speed.

I will Mistress, quoth her man.

Now when Mr. Eyer came to Guild-hall, the Lord Mayor & his brethren had him heartily welcome, saying: Sir, the Commonalty of the City having a good opinion of you, have chosen you for one of the Sheriffs for this year, not doubting but to find you a fit man for the place.

My good Lord, quoth he, I humbly thank the City for their courtesie and kindness, and would to God my wealth were answerable to my good will, and my ability were able to bear it: but I find my self insufficient: I most humbly desire a years respite more, and pardon for this present.

At these words a grave Commoner of the City standing up, with due reverence, spake thus unto the Mayor: My good Lord, this is but a slender excuse for Mr. Eyer to make, for I have often heard him say, and so have divers others also, that he hath a Table in his house, whereon he breaks his fast every day, that he will not give for a thousand pound: wherefore (under your Lordships correction) in my simple judgement, I think he that is able to spare a thousand pounds in such a dead commodity, is very sufficient to be Sheriff of London. See you now, quoth my Lord, I muse Mr. Eyer, that you would have so lame an excuse before us, as to make exception at your own wealth, which is apparently proved sufficient: you must know Mr. Eyer, that the Commons of London have searching eyes, and seldom they are deceived in their opinion, and therefore look what is done, you must stand to it.

I beseech you my Lord, quoth Mr. Eyer, give me leave to speak one word: Let it be granted, that I will not give my Table whereon I break my fast, for a thousand pounds, that is no consequence to prove it is worth so much, my fancy to the thing is all; for doubtless no man here would give me a thousand shillings for it, when they see it. All is one for that, quoth my Lord Mayor, yet I dare give you as much wine as you will spend this year in your Shrivels, to let me have it: My good Lord, quoth he, on that condition I will hold my place, and rest no longer troublesome to this company. You must hold, said my Lord, without any condition or exceptions at all in this matter: And so they ended.

The Assembly being then broken up, the voice went, Mr. Eyer is Sheriff, Mr. Eyer is Sheriff. Whereupon the fellow that Mistress Eyer sent to observe how things framed, ran in all haste, and with leaping and rejoicing, said: Mistress, God give you joy, for you are now a Gentlewoman. What, quoth she, tell me, Sir, sawce, is thy Master Sheriff or no? and doth he hold his place? yea Mistress, he holds his Place now, as fast as the Stirrup doth the Shooe while we sow it: Why then, quoth she, I have my Hearts desire, and that I so long looked for. And so away she went.

Within a while after came her Husband, and with him one of the Aldermen and a couple of wealthy Commoners, one of them was he that gave such great com-

mendation

commendation of his Table: and coming to his dooꝝ, he saide: You are welcome home good Master Sheriff. Nay, I pray you come in and drink with me before you go.

Then saide he, Wife, bring me forth the Pasty of Venison, and let me here my little Table, that these Gentlemen may eat a bit with me before they go. His Wife, which had been often used to this term, excused the matter, saying: the little Table I good Lord Husband, I do wonder what you will do with the little Table now, knowing that is used already: I pray you good Husband content your self, and sit at the great Table this once. Then she whispered him in the ear, saying: What man, shall we shame our selves: What shame, quoth he? tell not me of shame, but do thou as thou art bidden: for we are three or four of us, then what do we trouble the great Table: Truly (answered she) the little Table is not ready now, good Husband let it alone.

Trust me we are troublesome guests (saide the Aldermen) but yet we would faine see your little Table because it is said to be of such a price. Yea, and it is my mind you shall, quoth Master Eyer, therefore he called his Wife again, saying: Good Wife, dispatch and prepare the little Table, for these Gentlemen would faine have a view of it.

Whereupon, his wife seeing him so earnest, according to her wonted manner, came in, and setting her self down on a low stool laid a fair Napkin over her knees, and set the Platter with the Pasty of Venison thereupon: and presently a Chair was brought for Master Alderman, & a couple of low stools for the two Commoners, which they beholding, with a sudden and hearty Laughter, saide: Why Master Sheriff, is this the Table you held so dear? Yes truly, quoth he: Now verily, (quoth they) you herein have utterly deceived our expectation. Even so did you mine, quoth he, in making me Sheriff: but you are all right welcome: and I tell you true, had I not thought wondrous well of you, you had not seen my Table now. And I think did my Lord Mayor see it as you do, he would repent his bargain so hastily made. Notwithstanding, I account my Table never the worse: nor have you any cause (quoth they). And so after much pleasant talk they departed, spreading the same of Master Sheriff's Table over the whole City.

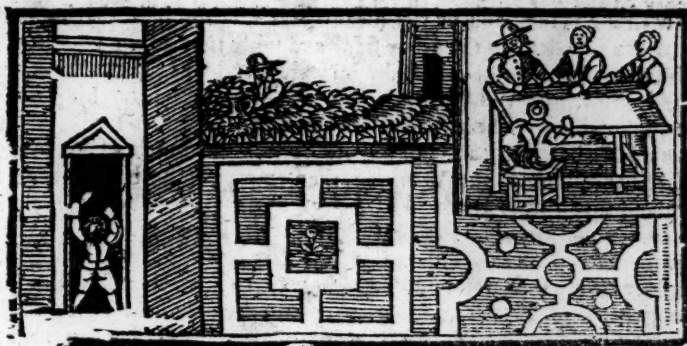
But you must now imagine that a thousand cares cumbered the Sheriff, in providing all things necessary for his Office: at what time he put off his Shroemakers Tye to one of his men, and set up at the same time the sign of the Black-Swan swimming upon the Sea, in remembrance of that Ship that first did bring him his Wealth: and before that time the Sign of the Black-Swan was never seen or known in any place in or about the City of London.

CHAP. XIV.

How Daunce having circumvented John the Frenchmans love, was by him and others finally deceived at the Garden.

Now at that time John the Frenchman and fair Florence were both at variance, as you heard before by the Dutchmans dealing, by which subtilty he sought means to win favour for himself, which John the Frenchman perceived, and therefore went about not only to prevent him, but to take revenge on him for his deceitfulness: and meeting Florence as she went into the garden for Flowers, he began to talk thus unto her.

What



What Florence, you go to the Garden? and how then, quoth she? what have you to say to that? Me sea nothing, but you be discontent: you no speak a me; you no look a me; nor you no drink with me, nor nothing: ah Florence, how chance dat?

Go get thee hence prating fool, quoth she, I drink with thee, thou shall be Py-peckt first. Py-peckt! what be Py-peckt? a hea: Begot Florence, you make me a Jack-nape, you mock a me, and call be shitten John, and you be so proud, because Haunce love you, dat shall be marvel: but and if you call me shitten John any more, on my say shall not put up, shall not take at your hands.

Who told you that I called you shitten John (quoth Florence,) I never called you so. No Florence, you no call me a shitten John, also me shant villain pulard Haunce tell a me so. I never said so, quoth Florence. But Haunce told me that you made your boast that I was at a beck of your finger: and that you could make me follow you up and down the whole City for a Pint of Wine. No, I would you should well understand, I will not follow a better man than you. O, of my fer Florence, me never said so. No; yes, quoth she, but you did, I can tell you by a good token, for that very time that I should have met you at Islington you said it, and made me a fool to come over the fields to you; and when all came to all, you sent Haunce to tell, that you were gone there-hence long ago.

Abet token Haunce, quoth John, bedes ten bon, 'tis true, for me tarry dere more den one, two, tree hour, and had provide shapon de rabbit, de cream, de pudding-pye, and twenty dings more: well, howsoever it was, I am sure I was made an Ass betwixt you, and for that cause I will beware how I shew kindness again to any: therefore John I pray you be gone, and seek some other company, for you shall not go with me. No, said John: well den adieu Florence, and so they departed.

Now it is be understood, that Haunce had promised Florence to meet her in the Garden, and to bring with him a bottle of Wine, and therein the presence of a pair of two more, to make themselves sure together; and she for that purpose had carried with her the corner of a Genton Dassy. But there was an English Journey-man in the house, called Nicholas, that understood thereof, who meeting with John the French-men, he made him privy therunto, saying: Trust me John, if thou wilt be ruled by me, we will not only disappoint this match, but also with their good cheer make our selves merry: John, who was glad and ready to do the Dutch-man an injury, consented to follow Nicholas his counsel in any thing.

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Then, quoth *Nicholas*, it shall be thus: I will go to the Garden, and stay for *Haunce* his coming with the Wine, and in the mean space do thou hide thy self under one of the hedges of the Garden on the other side, and with thee take a couple of Pots, and let the one be empty, and the other filled with water; and when *Haunce* is come into the Garden with his Bottle of Wine (now he will not let me see it by his good will, notwithstanding) I'll observe where he doth set it down, and then I will find the means, while they are busie in toying and talking, to convey the bottle of Wine through the hedge to thee, and likewise the Venison: then emptying the bottle, thou shalt fill it with water, and thrusting it through the hedge again, it shall be set where it first was found: which being done, thou shalt hastily rap at the door, at what time they shall be told that it is our Master or Mistresse; which they hearing, will be in such a maze, that on a sudden they will not know which way to turn themselves, especially for the conveying away of *Haunce*: Now when you have knockt twice or thrice, and that you hear no body come to the door, get you away, and stay for me at the *Rose* at *Barking*, and there we will drink up their Wine, and eat up their Venison: and this being done we will laugh them to scorn.

Truly *Nicholas*, quoth *John* the Frenchman, this will be brave: And thereupon they prepared themselves to do the feat. *Nicholas* therefore got him into the Garden, and by and by after comes *Haunce* with the bottle of Wine, who knocking at the Garden door, was straight let in: but seeing *Nicholas* there, he secretly set his bottle in a corner, but *Nick* who had as searching eyes as *Argus* in his business, quickly did as before he had determined: and instead of Wine, set the bottle down again, where he had found it full of Water.

Then comes *John*, and lustily knocks at the door: There is our Master and Mistresse, (quoth *Nicholas*) Alas quoth she, get you over the hedge. Shall I open the door? quoth *Nick*. O no, said *Florence*, nor yet good *Nick*. With that he knockt more hastily: Anon, anon, quoth he. Hence *Haunce*: go to the door, *Nick*. Who is there? quoth he, and with that opening the door, he found just no body. Truly *Florence*, said he, they are gone whosoever they were. God be with you, I can stay no longer.

When he was departed, the *Maid* wished that *Haunce* had been there again. Alas, poor fellow, quoth they, he is gone and left his bottle behind him? Marry I am glad that it is no worse, quoth *Florence*: and now that the Wine is here, we will drink it for his sake, and I have here a morsel of Venison, that will give it a good relish: And therewithal looking for it, she found the cloath, but the meat was gone. Now a vengeance on it, quoth she, one scurvy Cur or other hath got into the Garden and took away the meat.

O God, what ill luck is that (quoth the *Maid*) a murren on that Cur that got it: but seeing it is gone, farewell it. Well, said *Florence*, here is the Wine yet, I know it is excellent good, for he told me he would bring a bottle of the best *Rhenish* Wine that could be bought in *London*, and I am certain he is as good as his word: But believe me *Jone*, he is kind hearted, and as loving a fellow as ever professed love to any. I assure you that here is a cup of Wine that the King may drink thereof: But how shall we do for a glass? weel drink it out of the bottle, said *Jone*. Not so, quoth *Florence*, I do love to see what I drink, and therefore I'll borrow a glass at the next house. And while she goes for a glass, said *Jone* to her self, I'll have a taste of it before she returns again: then setting her hand unto the bottle, and the bottle unto her mouth, she drank a good draught, and finding it be to be something thin in going down, she said to *Bess* that sat by, Excuse me now, but for the name of Wine I have drank as good Water.

It is Rhenish Wine, quoth Bess, and that is never strong. It may be made of Rain well enough, quoth Jone. At which words Florence entred with a glass: and pouring it out into a glass, she extolled the colour, saying: See what a brave colour it hath? It is as clear, I do assure you, as the Rock Water: and there-withal drinking it off. She saith, It drinks very dead: Of a truth, quoth she, this is but bad Wine, it is even as dead as a door nail: And so filling the glass again she gave it unto Bess, she tasting thereof, said: Passion of me, this is plain Water. Water, saith Jone, Is it Water? Let me taste it once again, by my Maiden-head it is Water indeed quoth she. Water, saith Florence, you have plaid the Drabs in drinking our the Wine, and filled the Bottle again with Water. Of my faith, quoth Jone, you say not true in so saying: I would you did understand, we played not the Drabs in any such sort, But Haunce rather played the Knave, that brought us water instead of Wine. Nay, quoth Florence, I dare swear for him, that he would not serve you so for all the wealth my Master is worth: And I am perswaded, that it was no body but your selves that did it: But in faith, you might have dealt so with another, and not with me. Nay then (quoth they) you need not serve us so, to cause us to drink Water instead of Wine: and we would you should think, although you be Master Shertons Maid, we do love our mouths as well as you do yours for your life, and it was but a homely recompence for our good will, I tell you true, neither do we care how little we come to be thus deluded. Go to, go to, saith Florence, you are like to Penelope's Puppy, that doth both bite and whine: I know you well enough. Know us (quoth Jone) What do you know by us? We desire you for any thing you can say by us. Know us, Nay, it were well if thou didst know thy self: and hearest thou, though thou hast thy companions to meet thee at thy pleasure, and we have not: No, know us: We are known to be as honest as thou art, or else we should be sorry: And so they departed in a chafe.

Now John the Frenchman, and Nicholas, having eaten the Wenison, and drunk up the Wine, came back again time enough to hear all this strife, whereat they greatly rejoiced: but so soon as Florence did meet with Haunce again, she kept no small stir for mocking her with a bottle of Water, about the which they fell at variances, in such sort that they were not friends so, a long time after.

But during the time that Haunce was out of favour, Nicholas sought the Masters friendship by all the means he might, but in vain was his pains spent therein: for although Florence outwardly seemed much displeased, yet Haunce had her Heart still, and in process of time obtained great favour. The matter was grown so farward, that the performance of their Marriage was forthwith appointed, which they intended should be celebrated at the Abby of Grace on Tower-hill. Notwithstanding, this matter was not kept so close, but that their secret dealings were known, and Nicholas purposing to deceive the Dutchman, made John the Frenchman privy thereunto, saying: John, it is so, that this night at midnight Master Florence and Haunce do intend secretly to be Married, and they have appointed the Fryer to do it as soon as the Tapers are all put out, because they will not be seen of any: therefore John if now you will be my friend, I doubt not but to marry her my self, and so to give the Dutchman the Slampin; and bore him through the nose with a cushion. Ha (quod John) be Gome shall do as you see: and therefore Nicholas tell me what you do? Marry John quod he, you know the Dutchman loveth to drink well, and by that he loveth well, cuse him to lose his love: for we will get him out to the Tavern, and there cause him to be disguised, that he shall be neither able to stand or go. John the French-

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French-man hearing this, scratching his head, and rubbing his elbow, said: Masoy, Nicholas, dis be the Fine tricks, how shall we get him forth a doors. Excellent well, quoth Nicholas, for there is a new Journey-man come to Town with St. Hugh's bones at his back, and you know that he being of the Gentle-Craft, must go to give him his welcome; and I will tell Haunce thereof, who being now very jocund, by reason that his Marriage is so near, will not deny to come I know. Therefore you and the strange Journey-man shall go before to the Tavern, and then I will go fetch him. A-beene, content, content, said John.

And so to the Tavern he hasted with the strange man. Anon comes Nicholas and Haunce, and with them two or three Journey-men more, and all to the new Journey-man: Sitting down they got Haunce in the midst, called for wine lustily, and such varieties, as the Dutchman was soon set packing: for every one sought to over-charge him; and being himself of a good kind to take his liquor, spared not to pledge every man. At what time, in the midst of his Cups, being well whittled, his tongue ran at random (as Wine is the bewrayer of secrets) so it proved by him, for there he opened to his companions all his mind, saying: My hearts, for all I sit here, I must be a married man ere the morning. God give you joy (quoth they) but who shall you marry, said Nick: Florence: Yea, Florence, said the Dutchman, that is the Lass that I do love, and all the world cannot deceive me of her now, I am the man that must have her Maiden-head, and this night we must be married at the Abby of Grace, and if you be good fellows, go with me to Church: will you go with me? will we gad with thee (said John the Frenchman) that we will. O John (said Haunce) I have wiped your nose and Nicks too, you must wear the Willow Garland. Well, what remedy (quoth they) it is the better for you: But in faith Haunce, seeing it is so, (quoth Nick) we'll have one pottle of Wine more, that we may drink to the health of your Bride. I'll pledge her if it be a gallon (quoth Haunce). By my fet and trot, said John, will have a gallon: bea Drawer, where be you: I pray you bring me a gallon of de best Claret, and a gallon of de best Sack; shall make merry I fet: What! Florence be Marry and I no know: But by this time that this Wine was drank, Haunce was laid up for walking any more that night. When Nick perceived that, he stole suddenly out of the Tavern, and went to meet Florence at the appointed place: but John quickly missing him, knew straight whereabouts he went, & got him presently to the Constable of the Postern-Gate, and told him, that Nick had laid a man for dead in Tower-street, & that he was gone to save himself under the Priviledge of the Abby of Grace? But, quoth he, if you will go along, I shall bring him out with fair words unto you, and then I desire you to clasp him up to answer this matter in the morning. But where dwell you! said the Constable: I do dwell with Master Alderman Cyer (quoth John) and there you shall have me at all times. The Constable told as John had him, & committed Nicholas to Prison. In the mean space, Florence, & an old woman of Tower-street, said: they did go to a Woman's labour, & by that means they passed along by the Watch, and to the Abby of Grace they came: they had not long been there, but that John the Frenchman meeting them, said: Florence, Well met, here is a fit place to finish that I have long looked for: John (quoth she) thou art like an evil Spirit, that must be conjured out, before a body shall get any goodness: urge not me upon any such matters, for you be not the man I look for: and therefore, taking as little pleasure in your presence, as of your proffers, I would be very glad to see your back. What said John, have you no compassion on a poor man: you are hard hearted indeed. But as he was uttering these speeches, it was his ill-luck chance to hear his tongue, being newly come from the Barge at Whiting-gate,

and at that time going towards St. Katharines, to see if she could meet with some of her Country-folks that could tell her any tydings of her Husband; but as I said, hearing his tongue, and knowing him by his speech, he said: What John Denevale! My Husband, John Denevale; what make you wedd pretty wench? hea: At these words, John was stricken into such a dunn, that he wist not what to say: notwithstanding, hearing Florence to ask if she was his Wife, he answered, and said, Yea. O thou dissembling fellow! quoth she, is it even so? didst thou not say thou wast a Bachelor; seeking to marry me, and hast a Wife alive? Now fie on thee: O good Lord! how was I blest to escape him! Nay, now I see that Haunce may have a Wife in Flinders too, although he be here! and therefore by the grace of God I will not marry a stranger. O, quoth John! I thought my Wife had been dead, but seeing she is alive, I will not lose her for twenty thousand Crowns. So Florence departed, and left John with his Wife.

Now Haunce never waking until it was next day at noon, when he saw he had overslept himself, being very sorry, he went home, not knowing how to excuse his folly to Florence, whom he now utterly forsook, as well in regard of his drunkenness, as for that being a stranger, he might (like John the Frenchman have another Wife living. But Nicholas (that all this while lay in Prison) being brought before Alderman Eyer, rehearsed the Truth, and craving pardon for his Offence, was without any more ado delivered: And Florence being called before him, he made up the match between her and his Man Nicholas, marrying them out of his own house with credit, giving them a good stock to begin the World withal: also for John the Frenchman did very much: and shewed himself a good Master to his Man Haunce, and to all the rest of his Servants.

CHAP. XV.

How Master Alderman Eyer was chosen Lord Mayor of London, and how he feasted the Apprentices on Shrove-tuesday.



Within a few years after, Alderman Eyer being chosen Lord Mayor of London, changing his Copp, he became one of the Worshipful company of Drapers, and for this year he kept a most bountiful house. At this time it came into his mind what a promise once he made to the Prentices, being at breakfast with them at their going to the Conduit, speaking to his Lady in this wise: Good Lord (quoth he) what a change have we had within these thirty years? and how greatly hath the Lord blessed us since that! blessed be his Name for it.

I do remember when I was a young Prentice, what a match I did make upon **Shrove-tuesday** Morning, being at the Conduit among other of my Companions: trust me Wife (quoth he) it is worth the hearing, and I'll tell thee how it fell out.

After we had filled our Tankards with Water, there was some would needs have me set down my Tankard, and go with them to Breakfast (as many times before I had done) to which I consented, and it was to a breakfast of Pudding-Pies, I shall never forget it: but to make short, when the shot came to be paid, each one drew out his money, but I had not one penny in my Purse, and credit I had none in the place; which when I beheld, being ashamed, I said, Well my Masters, do you give me my Breakfast this time, and in requital thereof, if ever I be Lord Mayor of London, I'll bestow a Breakfast on all the Prentices of the City: These were the words, little thinking (Godd wot) that ever it should come to pass: But such was the great goodness of our God, who setteth up the humble, and pulleth down the proud, to bring whom he pleaseth to the seat of Honour: For as the Scripture witnesseth, Promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, but from him who is the giver of all good things, the mighty Lord of Heaven and Earth.

Wherefore Wife, seeing God hath bestowed that upon me, that I never looked for, it is reason that I should perform my promise, and being able now I'll pay that which then I was not able to do: for I would not have men say, that I am like the Ebony-tree, that neither bears Leaves nor Fruit. Wherefore Wife, seeing that **Shrove-tuesday** is so near at hand, I will upon that day fulfil my promise which upon that day I made. Truly My Lord, (quoth she) I will be right willing thereunto. Then answered my Lord, as thou dost love me, let them want neither Pudding-Pies nor Pancakes; and look what other good cheer is to be had, I will refer all to your discretion.

Hereupon great provision was made for the Prentices breakfast: and **Shrove-tuesday** being come, the Lord Mayor sent word to the Aldermen, that in their several Wards they should signify his mind to the Citizens, to crave their favours that their Prentices might come to his house to Breakfast, and that for his sake they might play all the day after.

Hereupon it was ordered, that at the ringing of a Bell in every Parish, the Prentices should leave work, and shut up their shops for that day; which being ever since yearly observed, is called the Pancake Bell. The Prentices being all assembled, my Lord Mayors house was not able to hold them, they were such a multitude: so that besides the great Hall, all the Gardens were set with Tables, and in the Backside Tables were set, and every other place was also furnished, so that at length they were all placed: and while meat was bringing in, to delight their ears, as well as to feed their bodies, and to drown the noise of their Whistlings, Drums and Trumpets were pleasantly sounded: that being ended, the Waits of the City, with others other sorts of Musick, played also to beguile the time, and to put off all discontent.

After the first service, were all the Tables plentifully furnished with Pudding pies and Pancakes in very plentiful manner; and the rest that remained was given to the poor: Wine & Ale in very great measure they had given, insomuch that they had no lack nor excess to cause them to be disordered. And in the midst of this their merriment, the Lord Mayor in his Scarlet Gown, and his Lady in like manner, went in amongst them, bidding them all heartily Welcome: saying unto them, That his promise so long ago made, he hath at length performed. At what time they in token of thankfulness sung up their Taps, giving a great shout, and incontinently they all quietly departed.

Then after this Sir Simon Eyer builded Leaden-Hall, appointing that in the middle thereof there should be a market-place kept every Sunday for Leather, where the Shoemakers of London, for their more ease, might buy of the Tanners without seeking any further. And in the end this worthy man ended his life in London, with great honour.

A New Love-Sonner.

Spald.

ALL hail sweet youth, fair Venus graft,
Chief Master of the Gentle-Craft;
How Comely seem'st thou in my sight?
Like Phebus in the Heavens bright,
That never was in Cupid's pound,
Or from his Shaft receiv'd a wound:
Thy mind with mirth it doth appear,
And for thy Love is free from grief & care.

Shoemaker.

Fair Maid you speak no more but truth:
For why, the freedom of my youth
I value at too high a rare,
To link my self with any mate;
There is no comfort on the earth,
Compared to a free born mirth:
When fairest beauties me ore-shwart,
I look the better to my heart.

When beauteous Nymphs do me Surprise,
I shut the Casements of my eyes,
For he is a fond and foolish Elf,
That loves a Maid, losing himself:
To fall in love is such a thing,
From whence sometimes doth mischief
I wish well unto women-kind, (spring;
But for to wed I have no mind.

Spald.

What if your Casements chance to ope,
And give affection so much scope,
As to encounter with a Dame:
Why then methinks it were a shame
For you to love and noc to speak,
And by degrees the Ice to break,
But if you speak and to obtain,
Then have you found your heart again.

It were a shame for Maids to wooe;
But men may speak, and so may you.

If that occasion offered be,
God Cupid's blind and cannot see,
But shoots at random here and there,
O therefore Command have a care,
At unawares you may be hit,
No Policy can hinder it.

But, O unhappy women kind;
That toxicated are in mind,
And know not how to vent the same,
Without the loss of our good name:
They count us bold if now and then
We do but look upon a man,
And look we may, but dare not speak,
Much less our mind unto them break.

Shoemaker.

Would I were worthy for to know
The cause of this your grief and woe;
For why? your words and looks declare
Your mind is over-charg'd with care:
If that your heart be fled away,
And it be taken for a stray,
The Man that hath it, I'll perswade
To take some pity on a Maid.

(*mate.*

This Young man struck this fair Maid
She wanted one to plead her suit,
Fain would she speak but was afraid;
This is the case of many a Maid;
He was the man whom she lov'd best,
Her Heart did lodge within his Breast,
Although to him it was unknown,
Until at last he lost his own.

Cupid the God of Love came down,
And on this Young Man cast a frown,
He bent his bow, and sent a dart,
That struck the Young man to the Heart,

And cause the Maid should win the prize,
He open'd the Shoemaker's eyes :
So when her beauty he beheld,
He gladly yielded up the field.

With folded arms along he walkt,
And thus unto himself he talkt,
O what are we that vainly trust.
In our weak strengths that are but dust :
I dust have sworn no living wight,
Could move me from my sweet delight :
But now I see and feel the smart,
Mine eyes to soon deceive my heart.

He that before was grown so stout,
And strong enough to keep love out,
Is vanquish'd now made to yield,
And did both win and lose the field :
He conquered her to him unknown.
She conquered him, made him her own :
Thus Maids with Men are dallying still,
Till they have brought them to their will.

Alas, quoth he, how am I cross't,
Beholding her my self I have lost :
Now beauty is become a snare,
The which hath brought me to despair :
If the no other man had lov'd,
I might have hope the might be mov'd,
But the another doth affect,
And I must dye without respect.

She noting of his passion then,
As Maids well do that love Young-men,
And finding the occasion fit,
Mark here a wily wench's wit :
Delays prove dangerous she knew,
And many Maids have found it true :

Thus in her self resolv'd to speak,
She unto him her mind did break.
Quoth she, Young man it is your lot,
The God of love hath laid a plot,
The Net is spread, the Bird is caught,
And I have found the thing I sought :
Though men are strong an Women weak,
Stout hearts will yield before they'l break,
And Women sometimes win the field,
When men are willing for to yield.

With that the Nymphs and Rural Swains,
Came strait way tripping o're the plains ;
The Satyrs made them Pipes of Reeds,
And brought in Musick more than needs :
The Syrens sung such songs of mirth,
That brought King Oberon from th'earth :
The Faries with the Fairy King,
Did dance about them in a Ring.

Chorus.

All health and happiness beside,
The Shoemaker and his sweet Bride,
Lo thus we sing, and thus we dance,
Till we have brought love in a trance :
Thus pleasures sweet these couple grace,
Both link'd together in a sweet embrace,
The neighbouring Hills and Dales re-
With eccho of our pleasant sound. (bound)

Whilst thus they sang their round-delays
God Cupid crown'd their heads with bays
The Bride look like the Queen of May,
The Shoemaker led her away :
Where now they live in quiet peace,
And love doth more and more increase ;
Thus love you see can find a way,
To make both Men and Maids obey.

The Pleasant History of the GENTLE-CRAFT.

John a Shoemakers Witto tell in love with her span.

These three years John, I have been deep in Love,
And ne'r till now had time my mind to move;
Speak, canst thou love me, though I am thy Dame?
I would not have thee daunted; Fie for shame:
Old Proverb, Spare to speak, and spare to speak.
Thou want'st a Wife, and I a Husband need.

His Answer.

Mistress, I am in Love as well 'tis true,
But to speak truth, in truth I love not you:
I have a Maid in chase, as sweet a Lass,
In my conceit, I think, as ever was:
Pray then forbear, it never shall be said,
I took a Widow and forsook a Maid.

23 JY 68

Reader, Observe what's insitten by the Poet.
Women and spades love Pen, but few know it.

FINIS.
